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United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The present report provides an overview of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs through an expanded outreach programme developed in the substantive priority areas of: (a) weapons of mass destruction; and (b) conventional weapons, in particular small arms and light weapons. The report also records the activities carried out by the Department of Public Information within the framework of the Programme.

In implementing the Programme, the Department for Disarmament Affairs has increasingly made use of the Internet to make information available to a wide spectrum of users. Its extensive web site has also been updated to make it more attractive and more user-friendly.

In keeping with the Secretary-General's policy of strengthening ties with civil society, the Disarmament Information Programme has further intensified its interaction with non-governmental organizations and research institutes.

* A/57/150.

** The present report covers activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme for the period from July 2000 to June 2002.

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I. Introduction

1. By resolution 55/34 A, adopted without a vote on 20 November 2000, the General Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, a report covering both the implementation of the activities of the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme by the United Nations system during the previous two years and the activities of the Programme contemplated for the following two years. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request and covers activities of the Programme for the period from July 2000 to June 2002.

2. The United Nations Disarmament Information Programme is administered principally by the Monitoring, Database and Information Branch of the Department for Disarmament Affairs. Its funding is derived from the regular budget, as well as from extrabudgetary resources, in particular the Voluntary Trust Fund for the Programme, the status of which will be issued as an addendum to the present report.

3. The Disarmament Information Programme reflects the priorities of the work programme of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, focusing, in particular, on weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. Another priority area is that of conventional weapons, the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons and the disarmament-development perspective. The following sections indicate how the Programme has addressed these concerns through publications, symposiums, exhibits and other activities, especially in connection with the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which was held in July 2001, the preparatory process for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which began in April 2002, and the Review Conference itself.

4. The adoption of the Programme of Action of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects will certainly have an impact on the Programme over the next biennium. At the same time, the recommendations of the United Nations studies on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229) and on disarmament and non-proliferation education, when endorsed by the General Assembly, will serve as a practical guide to the future work of the Programme.

5. Over the past few years, in keeping with the Secretary-General's desire to strengthen the United Nations ties with civil society, the Programme has intensified its interaction with various segments of the public, principally non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and research institutes. The Programme has worked closely with civil society in facilitating its participation in major international conferences, including the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and review conferences of multilateral disarmament agreements, including the April 2002 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference, as well as the two expert study groups on the issue of missiles and on disarmament and non-proliferation education.

II. Information and education resources

A. Publications

6. The Department continued to maintain a core publication programme, including the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, the occasional paper series and the quarterly *DDA Update*. Its ad hoc publications focus on topical issues, including terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, small arms destruction, children and disarmament and gender perspectives. In collaboration with the NGO Committee on Disarmament, the Department has published a basic primer on disarmament.

7. The Department has also made increasing use of its web site to provide easier and quicker access to information on the debates and developments in multilateral disarmament forums. For example, the *DDA Update* and the occasional paper series are available online within one day of their completion, while the print versions may take 3 to 4 weeks to reproduce. The Department continues to update its electronic mailing lists so as to be able to alert the Programme constituents to recent postings of its publications.

8. The Department has introduced some innovations to its publications during the period under review. For example, the twenty-sixth edition of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*, in 2001, included a section

covering the resolutions relating to disarmament and human rights. In addition, some graphic material has been added to the customary text format. In the next biennium, the Department is planning to introduce more graphic presentations in the *Disarmament Yearbook*. As of 2001, the occasional paper series is being posted on the web site. A French language version of *DDA Update* is now being produced and distributed, which the Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information, is having posted on the French pages of the United Nations web site.

9. In cooperation with the Publications Sales and Marketing Section of the Department of Public Information, a survey is under way to explore the level of interest of libraries and research institutes in receiving the *Disarmament Yearbook* on CD-ROM or online via the Internet. The Department will conduct a similar survey with the principal audience of the *Yearbook*, that is, permanent missions and governmental representatives in the First Committee, as well as among members of the Conference on Disarmament. The results, which should be available in early 2003, will help to determine the utility and level of interest in the publication, as well as whether there is a need for a different method of delivery.

10. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the Department for Disarmament Affairs produced a poster to publicize the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The two Departments also collaborated in the production of a double-sided teaching poster on all topics of multilateral disarmament, based on the disarmament segment of the guided tour route (opened in October 2000 by the United Nations Messenger of Peace, Michael Douglas). The poster is a carry-away item for teachers and students. One side depicts the urgent disarmament challenges, while the other the efforts under way to resolve them. The poster was also posted on the Department's web site.

11. The publications listed below have been produced from 1 January to 30 June 2002. A list of the Department's publications is maintained on its web site, as well as on the web site of the Department of Public Information. A list of publications issued in 2000 and 2001 appears in the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth editions of the *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook*.

(a) *DDA Update*, December 2001 and March/April 2002;

(b) Brochure on "Children and disarmament" (produced in conjunction with the special session of the General Assembly on children, May 2002);

(c) *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*: A two-sided poster on all issues of disarmament based on the disarmament segment of the United Nations guided tour.

12. The following publications will be issued during the biennium 2002-2003:

(a) *United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, 2001*, and *2002*;

(b) *DDA Update*, quarterly in 2002 and 2003;

(c) Occasional paper No. 6: Disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century;

(d) Study Series: Study on the issue of missiles in all its aspects (A/57/229); Study on disarmament and non-proliferation education;

(e) DDA/NGO publication on panel discussions;

(f) Nobel voices on disarmament, audio-documentary.

B. Web site

13. During the reporting period, the Department redesigned its web site to render it more issue-oriented. It includes core issues such as weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and regional disarmament. The web site also contains articles on emerging issues such as the linkage of disarmament with terrorism, as well as on gender and children.

14. In collaboration with the Department of Public Information, the web site was also used for publicizing or disseminating information and developments on major disarmament-related conferences, including the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the 2001 Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the April 2002 session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. In the first

two cases mentioned above, information was posted in all official United Nations languages.

15. The Department's web site is frequently used. On an average off-peak month, there are approximately 6,590 visitors to the web site, totalling 98,758 hits. The number of visitors can triple during preparations for and during the session of the General Assembly. The most visited features are the disarmament databases, in particular those giving resolutions and decisions of the First Committee and the status of disarmament and arms regulation agreements. The Department plans to undertake a more detailed and long-term monitoring of web traffic to gather statistics on regional usage of the web site and on which aspects of the site are more frequently used. Such regular monitoring will improve the Department's understanding of the kind of information that is needed as well as on how to better deliver it.

16. Based on the statistics cited above, the Department gave added attention to the following disarmament databases, which are an important information resource for Member States, NGOs and other institutions:

(a) General Assembly resolutions and decisions on disarmament items (including voting patterns and sponsors);

(b) Status of disarmament and arms regulation agreements;

(c) Submissions of Member States to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and the standardized reporting on military expenditures;

(d) Reports submitted under article 7 by States parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction.

17. Also added to the web site is an educational resource section that covers the progress of work of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. The educational resource section also highlights a power-point presentation on peace and disarmament and the electronic version of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*, a two-sided poster based on the disarmament segment of the guided tour, and a page of related links to education and information programmes of related research and educational institutions and organizations.

18. Looking ahead, the Department plans to provide Member States with the option of submitting national reports online through authenticated Internet access. This will include submissions to the standardized reporting on military expenditures and the Register of Conventional Arms. In cooperation with the Department of Public Information and the Publications Board working group on Internet matters, the Department is examining ways to expand the multilingual version of its web site. It is also planning to expand the educational resource section of the web site in line with the recommendations of the above-mentioned Group of Governmental Experts, as endorsed by the General Assembly. Both initiatives will depend on the availability of funds and human resources.

C. Exhibits

19. In conjunction with the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, the following exhibits were organized and displayed at United Nations Headquarters:

(a) The Gun Sculpture, comprising more than 7,000 deactivated small arms and light weapons welded together to form the walls, ceiling and floor of a room-sized box, together with a video presentation, a wall of victims and a long blackboard to record the thoughts and reflections of visitors and on-site volunteers. It was displayed in the General Assembly public lobby during the Conference in July and for a good part of August 2001. The exhibit was assembled by a group of artists in Edmonton, Canada, and brought to the United Nations with the assistance of the Permanent Mission of Canada;

(b) A collection of photographs of the victims of gun violence, called the "Mural of Pain". This exhibit, organized by Viva Rio, an NGO, highlighted the impact of small arms upon civilian populations in Brazil;

(c) The International Action Network on Small Arms, in cooperation with the Department, displayed a series of posters relating to the illicit trade in small arms, with special emphasis on children. The Network also facilitated an exhibit of replicas of pistols, handguns and larger light weaponry. The exhibit also contained posters and related materials dealing with the

illicit arms trade in Africa, along with large photographs of child soldiers employing these weapons;

(d) An exhibit, entitled "Transforming Arms into Ploughshares", comprising a variety of sculptures, fashioned entirely from decommissioned weapons, depicting everyday animals, furniture, toys and musical instruments. The exhibit was presented jointly by the International Action Network on Small Arms, the Council of Christian Churches of Mozambique and the Permanent Mission of Mozambique;

(e) An exhibit, entitled "Taking Aim at Small Arms: Defending Children's Rights". Initiated in 1999 as a joint production of the Department and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the exhibit was overhauled and updated for display at the Conference. It highlights the dramatic impact on women and children of the excessive availability of small arms. In addition to being displayed at Headquarters and UNICEF House, the exhibit has travelled to Winnipeg, Canada, Bamako, Mali, and the Principality of Andorra (see www.unicef.org).

20. Among upcoming plans for joint exhibits by the Department and the Department of Public Information will be a commemoration of the artistic process that led to the development of the Twisted Gun Sculpture in 2003.

III. Information and education activities

A. Panel discussions, symposiums and film showings

21. During the reporting period, the Department continued the series of discussions initiated in 1998 on topics of interest in the field of arms limitation and disarmament with a view to broadening understanding and facilitating a meaningful discussion of the issues among Member States and civil society (see table 1 below). In most instances, the presentations made at the symposiums were or are being produced as publications and posted on the Department's web site in order to extend their outreach. In cooperation with other organizations, screening of films on disarmament-related issues was also arranged.

22. The themes for upcoming events will revolve around the issues of the prevention of an arms race in outer space, disarmament and non-proliferation education, disarmament and development and disarmament as humanitarian action.

B. International conference

23. In collaboration with the Government of China, in April 2002, the Department organized an international conference, entitled "A disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century", in Beijing. Security experts and diplomats from around the world discussed defence doctrines, nuclear disarmament, outer space issues, missile proliferation and defence and conventional arms. The discussion papers presented to the conference will be published as occasional paper No. 6.

C. Disarmament and non-proliferation education

1. Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education

24. During the period under review, the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education held four sessions. Their study is to be submitted to the current session of the Assembly.

25. To help better understand the current situation in disarmament education, the Group carried out an informal survey of current programmes in disarmament and non-proliferation education among Governments, research and educational institutes and NGOs, which indicated that, though there were few programmes entirely devoted to disarmament and non-proliferation studies at all levels of education, there was a wealth of information available. It concluded that the information was not easily accessible in a pedagogical format and was predominantly in English.

26. On the premise that education was the responsibility of all, the experts opened their deliberations by inviting members of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters to attend meetings and review the draft of the study. In recognition of the

Table 1

16 October 2000	Premiere of the video documentary *Armed to the Teeth* (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Department of Public Information)
17 October 2000	Disarmament as humanitarian action (Department for Disarmament Affairs/United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research)
31 January 2001	The revolution in military affairs: implications for disarmament and the United Nations (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters)
5 February 2001	Assessing the verifiability of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, report of Independent Commission on the Verifiability of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Verification, Research, Training and Information Centre)
7 March 2001	Screening of *Thirteen Days* and discussion with Ted Sorensen, Special Adviser to President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Global Security Institute)
14 March 2001	Gender perspectives on disarmament (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women)
26 April 2001	Armed conflict, military expenditure and development (Department for Disarmament Affairs and Department of Economic and Social Affairs)
17 October 2001	Lessons for today from the Cuban missile crisis, discussion with former United States Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Global Security Institute)
23 October 2001	Terrorism and disarmament (Department for Disarmament Affairs)
30 January 2002	The Biological Weapons Convention and Bioterrorism (Department for Disarmament Affairs/Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters)

important role that the United Nations can play in this area, the experts also invited United Nations offices, agencies and programmes to participate in the drafting of the study. The experts also invited more than 36 representatives from educational institutions at the secondary, tertiary and post-graduate levels from different parts of the world and from NGOs and research institutes specializing in disarmament education and information, as well as media representatives, to interact with it and review the draft. The Group met in three different locations — New York, Monterey, California, and Geneva — in order to allow a diversity of views from different regions to be expressed. The Group also made use of the Department's web site to post, for public use, the annexes to the study containing, among other things, the results of the survey and a page on educational resources brought to its attention with electronic hyperlinks to the web sites of many related organizations and programmes.

27. Following the endorsement by the General Assembly of the recommendations of the study, the Department will use those recommendations applicable to it as a guide to the educational aspect of the Disarmament Information Programme for the next two years. It will participate actively, as called for by the study, towards greater harmonization and coordination of the educational work among United Nations agencies, programmes and organizations.

2. Initiatives for disarming youth: peace and disarmament education project

28. With a generous grant from the United Nations Foundation, the Department, in partnership with the Hague Appeal for Peace, conducted a six-month planning project, from December 2001 to June 2002, involving visits to N'Guigimi, Niger; Lima; and Kampong Chhnang, Cambodia, to lay the groundwork for a two-year programme entitled "Peace and Disarmament Education: Sustaining Weapons Collection Programmes and Preventing Violence". A formal grant proposal was made to the United Nations Foundation for the two-year project. Funding was also requested from Governments participating in the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures, as well as from other Governments. With strong emphasis on teacher training, the objective of the education programme is to introduce the topics of peace, disarmament and small arms awareness in pre-existing curriculum. The purpose is to empower young people to choose peace and disarmament, and not weapons, to resolve conflict, thereby consolidating the gains of the weapons collection programmes and removing obstacles to development and prosperity. Some of the participants will be former combatants and unemployed and disaffected youth.

3. International Association of University Presidents

29. The Department continued its support for, and participated in, meetings held by the International Association of University Presidents and the Commission for Disarmament Education, Conflict Resolution and Peace at Headquarters and in other countries. The former President of the Commission participated in the second session of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education and provided advice on the challenges of creating disarmament education programmes at the university level.

D. Activities in cooperation with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

30. UNIDIR works in close relationship with the Department for Disarmament Affairs pursuant to article 1 of the statute of the Institute. The Department is responsible for the selection of the Institute's Board of Trustees and organizes its meetings. The Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters serves as the Board of Trustees of the Institute. The statute also requires UNIDIR to consult with the Department on budgetary matters.

31. During the reporting period, the Department and the Institute increased coordination of information and education activities. They initiated a series entitled "Disarmament as Humanitarian Action" in October 2000 and will continue with a combined programme of research papers and public panel discussions in 2002 and 2003. UNIDIR participated, in a consultative role, in the 2001 study on ammunition and explosives as well as in the 2002 study on the issue of missiles in all its aspects. UNIDIR also contributed actively to the 2002 study on disarmament and non-proliferation

education and will closely collaborate in the future study on information security.

E. Activities of the Secretary-General's Messengers of Peace

32. Since his appointment as Messenger of Peace by the Secretary-General on 30 July 1998, Michael Douglas has continued to support the United Nations in general, and nuclear disarmament and small arms control in particular, in his press interviews.

33. On the occasion of her appointment as Messenger of Peace in April 2002, Jane Goodall, the renowned primatologist and environmentalist, seized the opportunity to stress the negative environmental impact of the doctrine of nuclear deterrence and nuclear weapons testing.

F. Briefings

34. At the request of the Public Inquiries Unit of the Department of Public Information, staff members of the Department undertook approximately 30 briefing engagements per year for the benefit of: (a) student visitors in the framework of university programmes dealing with the United Nations; (b) United Nations Association members from various countries; (c) Foreign Ministry trainees; (d) students preparing for the model United Nations exercises; (e) visiting members of NGOs.

IV. Cooperation with civil society

35. The Department carried out numerous activities that are described below. In addition, it maintained close contact on an ongoing basis with a number of major NGO coalitions, among them Reaching Critical Will, the International Action Network on Small Arms, the International Peace Bureau, Educators for Social Responsibility, *Hidankyo*, a coalition of Japanese NGOs representing the survivors of the atomic bomb and research institutes. In connection with the peace and disarmament education project, the Department collaborated with the Hague Appeal for Peace, which comprises more than 1,000 organizations worldwide.

36. In view of the crisis in funding that many disarmament NGOs were experiencing, the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs addressed a letter of appeal to major foundations, stressing the need for them to maintain support for disarmament activities at a time when the value of multilateral disarmament agreements was being questioned and negotiations were at a standstill.

37. The Department cooperated with the NGO Committee on Disarmament and the Department of Public Information in conducting a number of panel discussions in the fall of 2000 and 2001 during Disarmament Week, and in the spring of 2002 during the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference. Discussions covered a wide range of topics. These included issues related to missiles; the strengthening of the Biological Weapons Convention; verifying the Chemical Weapons Convention; the human, environmental and military aspects of global security in the twenty-first century; a treaty to prohibit weapons and war in space; a new disarmament agenda for the twenty-first century; and new choices for security and prosperity.

38. The Department facilitated the publication of material arising from the joint events with the NGO Committee on Disarmament. Edited transcripts of discussions are available on http://www.igc.org/disarm/forum.html. The Department also collaborated with the NGO Committee on Disarmament in the publication of *Disarmament: A Basic Guide*, in print and available on the Department's web site.

39. The Department facilitated the participation of NGOs in major disarmament-related conferences, including the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the Conference itself, the 2001 Conference to Facilitate the Entry Into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty and the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference in April 2002. In collaboration with Member States and States parties, the Department also enabled NGOs to address delegations at open meetings set aside for the purpose, such as the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and the Conference itself as well as the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference. The active participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences represented a dynamic and growing phenomenon as Governments increasingly recognize

not only the role of NGOs as advocates, but also their highly specialized expertise in certain fields.

40. The Department will continue to facilitate the participation of NGOs in disarmament-related conferences. It will continue to support NGO activities that seek to disseminate and advocate United Nations ideals and principles. It will also seek to further expand its collaboration with civil society in promoting arms limitation and disarmament.

V. Regional activities

41. The Department continued to work through its three regional centres, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean, the activities of which are contained in the respective reports of the Secretary-General (A/57/162, A/57/260 and A/57/116). The usefulness of the centres in carrying out dissemination and educational programmes has been reaffirmed by the General Assembly.

VI. Training

A. United Nations Disarmament Fellowship Programme

42. As mandated by the General Assembly, the Department continued to implement the United Nations disarmament fellowship, training and advisory services programme. The programme, designed to promote expertise in disarmament in more Member States, particularly developing countries, trained 58 diplomats in the reporting period (for details, see A/57/168).

B. Internships in the Department

43. In both New York and Geneva, the Department hosted and trained graduate students serving in different internship programmes at the United Nations (see table 2 below). The interns were distributed among the different branches of the Department according to their interests and the needs of the Department. Their assignments included: assisting in the organization and reporting on disarmament-related bodies; preparing background notes and bibliographies on subjects of topical interest; summarizing academic journals; organizing and advertising symposiums and panels; preparing analytical papers on peace and security issues; and assisting with the developing of branch databases. In selecting interns, the Department has endeavoured to achieve gender balance and geographical representation, especially of developing countries.

C. Cooperative monitoring workshops

44. In collaboration with the Cooperative Monitoring Center of the Sandia National Laboratories of the United States Department of Energy, the Department sponsored a workshop entitled "Useful technologies for peace operations and humanitarian assistance programmes" in June 2001 at Geneva. The purpose was to acquaint interested United Nations representatives with the concept of cooperative monitoring and shareable technologies useful in peace operations, humanitarian assistance and other United Nations programmes, with special emphasis on applications of cooperative monitoring technologies for arms control and disarmament. The workshop was a follow-up to four similar workshops held at Headquarters in February 2000.

VII. Activities of the Department of Public Information

A. Public information campaign

45. The Department of Public Information continued its efforts to help raise public awareness and understanding of the work of the United Nations in the field of disarmament and related issues. In cooperation with the Department for Disarmament Affairs and other members of the Coordinating Action on Small Arms, the Department mounted a complex public information campaign to promote the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms, which resulted in widespread interest on the part of the media and civil society organizations in this event. A brochure, a poster and a press kit were produced and widely distributed. Immediately prior to the Conference, a flier, "Setting the Record Straight", was issued in order to address some common questions and misconceptions about the objectives of the Conference. All these materials were posted on a special web site specifically devoted to the Conference. A live web cast and coverage of the open

Table 2

United Nations Graduate Internship Programme	4-6 full-time interns	Period of 2-3 months	3 times a year
Monterey Institute of International Studies/Centre for Non-Proliferation Studies, United States of America	One full-time intern/New York	Duration of 6 months	Twice yearly
	One full-time intern/Geneva	Duration of 8 months	Once a year
Fordham University, United States of America	1 part-time intern	Duration of 2-3 months	Once a year
Nova Southeastern University Law School, United States of America	One (or two) full-time intern(s)	Duration of 2-3 months	Once a year
Columbia University/School of International and Public Affairs, United States of America	One part-time intern	Duration of 3 months	Twice a year

meetings was also arranged. On the first day of the Conference, 9 July 2001, which was designated as "Small Arms Destruction Day", the Department helped organize a special event at Headquarters, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands. A special exhibit called "ihuman: the Gun Sculpture", sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Canada, was arranged in the General Assembly public lobby. Another exhibit, "Transforming Arms into Ploughshares", sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Mozambique, was also put on display. The United Nations information centres and services led public information activities in the field, including translation and dissemination of materials into local languages and organization of events for diverse local audiences.

46. The Department also assisted Disarmament Affairs and the provisional technical secretariat of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization in public information aspects of preparations for the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which was held from 11 to 13 November 2001 at Headquarters in New York. The Department helped disseminate public information materials and facilitated press coverage of the Conference, including a pre-conference press briefing by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs and press conferences by the Conference President and the Public Information Chief of the provisional secretariat. Arrangements were also made for webcasts of the proceedings. In addition, the Department arranged for press coverage of the Third Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, which was held in Managua from 17 to 21 September 2001.

B. Radio and television

47. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information provided extensive coverage on a wide range of issues concerning disarmament and related issues in its daily news bulletins and current affairs magazines in the official and non-official languages. Its radio news programmes carried reports on the work of disarmament bodies: the Conference on Disarmament; the First Committee; the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms; the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 Review Conference; as well as the activities of the parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. They covered a wide range of issues: the future of nuclear disarmament, the small arms trade, the impact of light weapons and small arms on socio-economic development, biological weapons, the nuclear-weapon-free zones in Africa and Latin

America, United Nations efforts in demining, the anniversary of the atomic blasts on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and disarmament and various activities of the Disarmament Week.

48. In addition to news coverage, the Department of Public Information produced 24 magazine programmes in 10 languages on disarmament and 14 magazine programmes on the subject of small arms and light weapons in all the official languages of the United Nations and in Portuguese. These radio programmes were produced for regional and worldwide dissemination. In preparation for the 2005 Review Conference, the Department will continue to cover relevant news items and produces magazine and feature stories on the issue.

49. Disarmament issues were featured in a range of videos produced by the Department of Public Information: *UN in Action*, the ongoing series of newsmagazines distributed to more than 100 countries, and *World Chronicle*, the United Nations television discussion programme. In addition, the Department finalized the production of a documentary dealing with the aftermath of war. Entitled "Legacies of War", the documentary has been produced in English in a 31-minute version for the public, including schools and other educational institutions, and a 43-minute version for television broadcast. "Legacies of War" deals with tragic situations where civilians are left to face war's harsh consequences such as the menace of landmines or unexploded bombs, the destruction of normal society and deep psychological trauma. The documentary looks at the effect of war and war remnants on the civilian populations in Guatemala, Bosnia, the Sudan, Uganda, Kosovo and Mozambique.

C. Printed materials

50. The Department of Public Information produced extensive press coverage on disarmament topics in both New York and Geneva, including coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms, issuing close to 200 press releases in both English and French, including background notes. In addition to press materials, the Department promoted awareness of disarmament through its regular publications: the *UN Chronicle*; the *Yearbook of the United Nations*; the two booklets *UN in Brief* and *Image and Reality*, currently being updated; as well as in *Basic Facts about the United Nations*, which contains an extensive section covering the full range of disarmament issues and the role of the United Nations in this field.

51. In the reporting period, the *UN Chronicle* also continued to publish materials on disarmament issues, including such articles as "Third Act of the Nuclear Era"; "States Can Be Made Accountable for Small Arms"; "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World: One Step Closer"; "Sustaining People-Centred Disarmament"; "Can Sources and Supplies of Small Arms and Light Weapons Be Traced?"; "A call against Arms: the Small Arms Conference"; "New Hope for Restricting Certain Conventional Weapons"; "CCW Review Conference Proposals"; and "Combating Biological Weapons". The *Africa Recovery* magazine and its online edition published an article on small arms entitled "Small Arms in Africa: Counting the Cost of Gun Violence". The chapter on disarmament of each volume of the *Yearbook of the United Nations* summarizes action taken by the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission and other United Nations bodies dealing with disarmament issues. Relevant General Assembly resolutions are reproduced in full.

D. Internet

52. The United Nations News Service on the United Nations home page provided regular news reports on disarmament issues, including extensive coverage of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms. Disarmament activities related to chemical and biological weapons were also highlighted on a special web page devoted to the fight against terrorism created on the United Nations News Centre site on the Internet. United Nations press releases on disarmament related issues and relevant publications are also available through the Internet.

E. Non-governmental organizations

53. Disarmament and related issues were also highlighted at the weekly briefings to NGOs, organized by the Department of Public Information at Headquarters. During the reporting period, special attention was given to the issue of small arms and light weapons. In addition, at the fifty-third annual DPI/NGO Conference, with the theme "Global Solidarity: The Way to Peace and International Cooperation", held

on 28 to 30 August 2000, the issue of partnership between civil society, Governments and intergovernmental institutions in achieving disarmament goals was addressed, in particular by the Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs. Disarmament issues will also be addressed at the fifty-fourth annual DPI/NGO Conference, "Rebuilding Societies Emerging from Conflict: A Shared Responsibility", to be held from 9 to 11 August 2002. One of the plenary sessions, "Demobilizing the War Machines: Making Peace Last", will be focusing specifically on disarmament and techniques for avoiding rearmament in post-conflict societies; "best practice" programmes for weapons collections; and destruction, demining and other relevant issues.

F. Public affairs

54. During the reporting period, the Department of Public Information responded to 2,027 inquiries on disarmament-related issues. It arranged 38 briefings on the subject of disarmament for a variety of university, high school and NGO groups, reaching a total audience of 1,029. There were also 42 briefings on the issue of landmines, reaching an overall audience of 1,136 people. The refurbished disarmament exhibit, a major feature of the guided tour route, was attended by almost 605,182 visitors during the reporting period.

G. United Nations information centres

55. Most United Nations information centres, information services, and offices undertook a variety of information activities to promote the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and also translated the brochure and other information material produced in connection with the Conference. The United Nations Office in Minsk produced a leaflet highlighting the aims of the Conference, while the United Nations information centre in Lisbon produced an article.

56. On the issue of landmines, the information centre in Beirut organized interviews for the Personal Representative of the Secretary-General for Southern Lebanon with CNN, Abu-Dhabi TV, Al-Manar TV, LBC TV, Radio France Internationale and United Nations Radio. The information centre in Lima assisted the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean with a two-day event on mine clearance; the centre in Rome assisted with the launch of the Landmine Monitor Report 2000; and the centre in Islamabad was involved in a fund-raising campaign to assist children affected by landmines.

57. The United Nations information centre in Beirut and other centres in the region arranged interviews for senior United Nations officials, issued press releases and also supported a two-day international demining workshop for Southern Lebanon. The information centre in Sydney promoted an Asia/Pacific regional conference on disarmament, which was held in New Zealand in March 2001, by issuing a press release and giving interviews to Singapore television and the Associated Press.

58. Disarmament was also a major part of the outreach programme of the information centres for the general public and educational institutions. Staff of the United Nations information centre in Nairobi visited a number of schools in the provinces and briefed more than 600 students on United Nations matters, providing information material on disarmament and screening videos produced by the Department of Public Information on the issue. These videos were also screened by a number of other centres. The information centre in Ouagadougou briefed senior army officers on United Nations peacekeeping and on disarmament, while the information centre in Mexico sponsored lectures on peacekeeping and disarmament to 350 students at the National University. Approximately 15,000 people participated in an open air event organized by the information centre in Rome and the Rome City Hall, which culminated in children symbolically burning weapons made of paper in a big bonfire. The centre in Vienna organized lecture programmes for students from the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna, military personnel, European armament experts, young diplomats from Eastern and Central Europe and university students from the Netherlands. Many of these public outreach initiatives were carried out to mark Disarmament Week.

59. Op-ed articles by the Under-Secretaries-General for Disarmament Affairs and for Economic and Social Affairs were placed in local newspapers by the United Nations information centres in Islamabad and New Delhi, while the information centre in Moscow organized the publication of an address by the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva and Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament during a session of the Conference.

H. Other activities

60. The Department of Public Information participated in the sessions of the Group of Governmental Experts preparing a United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education. At the third session of the Group, held at Geneva, the Department provided substantial contributions to the report of the Group and assisted in organizing public hearings on the subject matter, to which the Department invited representatives of the media and media-related NGOs. Once the report of the Group is endorsed by the General Assembly, the Department will assist in publicizing the recommendations of the Group and will actively implement their recommendations within its areas of competence.

VIII. Conclusions

61. During the period under review, the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme continued to disseminate information in the field of weapons of mass destruction, especially nuclear weapons. The Programme will continue to provide information on developments and efforts of the United Nations in the field.

62. During the reporting period, the Programme focused its attention on the dangers of the excessive proliferation of small arms, the destabilizing effects of such proliferation on the society of affected countries and the need for international action to respond to the problem. In close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, a broad-based information campaign was launched to promote the preparatory process, the convening and the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Follow-up to the Conference has focused on supporting regional efforts to sustain the momentum of the Conference and the implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Conference.

63. Upon endorsement by the General Assembly of the report on the United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education, the Department, mainly through the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme, will seek to implement the recommendations of the Group of Governmental Experts, to the extent that human and financial resources permit.

64. The role of civil society, especially NGOs, in multilateral disarmament conferences is steadily growing, as evidenced over the last several years by greater participation in meetings and a larger array of parallel events in connection with such meetings. This process will be further supported by the Department through the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme.

65. Recognizing the ever-increasing role of information technology, the Department will continue to further expand and improve its web site so as to make information accessible to a wide spectrum of users.

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Agenda item 67 (a)
Review and implementation of the Concluding Document of the Twelfth Special Session of the General Assembly

United Nations Disarmament Information Programme

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

1. In addition to the activities supported by the regular budget, some of the information and outreach activities of the Department for Disarmament Affairs are supported by the Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme. The available balance that remained in the Fund as at 31 December 2001 amounted to US$ 844,343. The status of the Fund as at 31 December 2001, in line with the (audited) financial statements for the biennium, is described in the annex to the present document.

2. Information activities continue to benefit from the generosity of Member States and private donors. The Department for Disarmament Affairs is grateful for all donations and support for general activities, as well as particular projects. During the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001, the United Nations received a total of $235,400 in contributions from the following States: Andorra, Argentina, Finland, Greece, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama and Republic of Korea. In addition, $100,000 was received from a private donation.

* This information was made available after the submission of the main report.

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Annex

Voluntary Trust Fund for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme for the period from 1 January 2000 to 31 December 2001, in line with the (audited) financial statements for the biennium

	(United States dollars)
I. Fund balance as of 1 January 2000	487 010
II. Income	
1 January 2000-31 December 2001	
Voluntary contributions	335 460
Interest income	101 420
Miscellaneous/other income	386
Transfer from other Funds	309 903
Subtotal	**747 169**
III. Expenditures	
1 January 2000-31 December 2001	389 836
IV. Fund balance	**844 343**

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

Summary

Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/241 of 24 December 2001, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The audit, which was conducted from February to April 2002, took place at a time when the Office of Human Resources Management was preparing the groundwork for implementing the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on human resources management reform (A/55/253). These proposals are being implemented with effect from 1 May 2002, as outlined in ST/AI/2002/4.

The audit focused on appointments of professional staff for one year or longer against vacancies in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that were made after obtaining the advice of the appointment and promotion bodies during 2001. Most of these vacancies had arisen as a result of new posts authorized on an emergency basis by General Assembly resolution 55/238, of 23 December 2000, in order to implement the recommendations made by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations (A/55/305-S/2000/809).

The Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform envisaged the shortening of the recruitment time frame by filling vacancies within a maximum period of 120 days. The OIOS review indicated that the average recruitment time frame for filling regular vacancies in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was 362 days. The recruitment time frame for filling new vacancies that were authorized on an emergency basis by General Assembly resolution 55/238 was 264 days. These time frames are more than double the goal of 120 days. In the opinion of OIOS, the Office of Human Resources Management needs to take a proactive role in ensuring that vacancies are filled in a timely manner. The new staff selection system being implemented with effect from 1 May 2002 (the "Galaxy system") should enable the Office to closely monitor the recruitment process at each stage so that delays in candidate evaluation and departmental review are tracked and promptly followed up with the concerned departments.

The audit indicated that the Office of Human Resources Management had not fully implemented the OIOS recommendation concerning the use of numeric scoring methods for evaluating candidates, made in its report on the follow-up audit of the recruitment process (A/55/397). Although the Secretary-General's report envisages the establishment of such evaluation criteria, there was no evidence of their use in recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations during 2001. OIOS noted that the "Galaxy system" provides for the use of numeric ratings for evaluating candidates.

OIOS noted several inconsistencies in the competencies and skills specified in the vacancy announcements issued by the Office of Human Resources Management. These inconsistencies were caused by wide variations in the job descriptions for similar posts, or posts at the same level, in the Department. Furthermore, although the vacancy announcements specified the minimum number of years of experience

required for each post, the Office of Human Resources Management subsequently advised the Department of Peacekeeping Operations not to use the minimum number of years of experience as a criterion for evaluation of candidates. In the opinion of OIOS, the integrity of the candidate evaluation process should be maintained by adhering to the eligibility requirements specified in vacancy announcements.

With regard to geographical distribution and gender balance, the OIOS review indicated that the nationalities and gender of staff recruited by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations against the new posts authorized by General Assembly resolution 55/238 were generally equitable and balanced. Further improvement could be achieved while recruiting candidates for the additional posts approved by General Assembly resolution 56/241.

OIOS made a number of recommendations, including:

- The Office of Human Resources Management should effectively monitor the recruitment process for each vacancy to ensure that the recruitment time frames envisaged in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform are achieved;
- The Office of Human Resources Management should ensure that the criteria for evaluating applications are established prior to issuance of the vacancy announcement. To increase the objectivity of the candidate evaluation process, the Office should encourage programme managers to make use of numeric ratings established prior to issuance of vacancy announcements, as envisaged in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform;
- In order to eliminate inconsistencies and disparities in the eligibility requirements for posts at the same level, the Office of Human Resources Management should prepare generic job profiles and ensure that vacancy announcements are consistent with such profiles;
- The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should review the current composition of its staff in terms of geographical distribution and take appropriate steps with a view to further improving the situation during the next phase of recruitment for the additional posts approved by the General Assembly in February 2002.

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I. Introduction

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 56/241, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the policies and procedures for recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The audit, which was conducted from February to April 2002, took place at a time when the Office of Human Resources Management was preparing the groundwork for implementing the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform.[1] These proposals are being implemented with effect from 1 May 2002 as outlined in ST/AI/2002/4.

2. The main objectives of the audit were to determine whether existing practices: (a) ensure the effective and efficient management of recruitment; (b) promote transparency in the selection process; and (c) facilitate the recruitment of the best available candidates with due regard to equitable geographical distribution and gender balance. The audit focused on the policies and procedures for recruiting professional staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations during 2001. Most of these vacancies resulted from the new posts authorized on an emergency basis by General Assembly resolution 55/238 in order to implement the recommendations made by the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations.[2]

3. The audit reviewed the recruitment process and conducted walkthroughs by using the pilot module of the web-based "Galaxy system" developed by the Office of Human Resources Management. In addition, OIOS reviewed relevant documentation and interviewed responsible officials of the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. A draft of the report was made available to the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for review. Their comments are identified in the present report by the use of italics.

II. The recruitment process

A. Overall recruitment time frames

4. Previous OIOS audits had determined that, for the Secretariat as a whole, the average time frame for the recruitment process — commencing with the Department's request for issuance of a vacancy announcement and concluding with the recommended candidates' approval by the Secretary-General — was 388 days in 1996 and 275 days in 1999. These time frames for effecting regular appointments of one year or longer to professional posts in the Secretariat were considered to be much too long by both the Secretary-General and the General Assembly. The Secretary-General's report of 1 August 2000 on human resources management reform (A/55/253) envisaged the introduction of a recruitment system whereby posts would be filled within a maximum period of 120 days.

5. The current OIOS review of the recruitment of professional staff for posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations during 2001 did not show any improvement since the previous OIOS audit conducted in 1999, which covered the entire Secretariat. The average time frame for recruiting candidates against 67 of the 72 new professional posts authorized for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on an emergency basis, in order to implement the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, was 264 days. Although the Department had informed the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[3] in March 2001 when the recruitment for these posts was only beginning that the recruitment time frame would be reduced to 190 days, this goal was not achieved. OIOS also found that the average number of days for recruiting professional staff for other regular posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was significantly higher, at 362 days (see table 1 below).[4] *According to the Department, the longer time frame for filling regular vacancies was attributable to the higher priority accorded by programme managers to recruiting staff for the posts authorized on an emergency basis by General Assembly resolution 55/238. The Department also stated that a vast majority of vacancies were filled on a temporary basis pending the completion of the normal recruitment process.*

Table 1
Time frames for recruiting candidates for professional posts

Process steps		*Processing time (average number of days)*		
From	*To*	*1999*	*2001 (For posts approved on emergency basis)*	*2001 (For regular posts)*
Department request for vacancy announcement	Vacancy announcement issuance	17	20	34
Vacancy announcement issuance	Vacancy announcement deadline	36	73	55
Vacancy announcement deadline	Shortlist sent to Department	21	53	34
Shortlist sent to Department	Department recommendation	152	72	185
Department recommendation	Secretary-General's approval	49	46	54
Entire process		**275**	**264**	**362**

B. Issuance of vacancy announcements

6. The audit found that the Office of Human Resources Management took an average of 20 days to issue vacancy announcements for posts authorized by the General Assembly on an emergency basis to implement the recommendations of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations. However, the average number of days to issue vacancy announcements relating to regular support account posts was significantly higher, at 34 days, which represented a 100 per cent increase over the average for 1999. *The Office of Human Resources Management attributed this to the high priority accorded to the urgent issuance of vacancy announcements pertaining to the additional 93 posts that were approved by the General Assembly on an emergency basis.* In the opinion of OIOS, the lead-time of 34 days for issuing vacancy announcements is unacceptably high and could be reduced considerably with the implementation of the new staff selection system introduced by the Secretary-General, effective 1 May 2002.

7. The average of 73 days needed for circulation of vacancy announcements pertaining to the posts authorized on an emergency basis by the General Assembly was significantly higher than the average of 36 days reported in the previous OIOS report of 1999 (A/55/397), mainly because all vacancy announcements pertaining to these "emergency" posts were circulated both internally and externally. The circulation period was 60 days for civilian posts and 90 days for military and civilian police posts. In 1999, not all vacancy announcements were circulated externally. Normal recruitment procedures[9] require that vacancy announcements for vacant posts at the P-3 level may be circulated externally only when there is no suitably qualified internal candidate, while vacant posts at the P-4 level shall normally be circulated internally first, taking into account the potential availability of qualified internal candidates and the need to improve geographical and gender balance. OIOS noted, however, that all posts at and above the P-3 level in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that were authorized on an emergency basis had been circulated internally and externally, simultaneously. *The Department of Peacekeeping Operations explained that the decision to circulate these vacancy announcements internally and externally at the same time was made with a view to reducing the overall lead-time for their circulation. Otherwise, vacancy announcements for posts at the P-3 and P-4 levels would first have to be circulated internally; applications received from internal candidates would have to be reviewed; and in the event that no suitable internal candidate is identified, the vacancy announcement would then have to be circulated externally. Such delays were prevented by simultaneous circulation of vacancy announcements internally and externally.* The lower average of 55 days for circulating the vacancy announcements pertaining to regular posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations was achieved because some announcements were only circulated internally, with a much shorter circulation period of up to 30 days.

C. Screening of applications

8. Normally, applications received in response to vacancy announcements are initially screened by the Office of Human Resources Management's reviewing

officers. Shortlists of candidates meeting all or most of the requirements of the posts are transmitted to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for further evaluation and submission to the appointment and promotion bodies. However, with regard to the posts authorized by the General Assembly on an emergency basis, the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations agreed upon a new procedure for reviewing candidates' applications and preparing shortlists. Under the new procedure, reviewing officers from the Office as well as programme managers of the Department jointly reviewed all the applications received for those posts. Upon completion of the joint review, the Office produced shortlists of candidates for interview. This process, which took an average of 53 days from the deadline for the receipt of applications, may have contributed to reducing the time for departmental recommendation of candidates from 152 days in 1999 to 72 days. However, the new procedure did not significantly reduce the overall recruitment time frame, which was still high, at 264 days. For other regular posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, there were no joint reviews. The Office of Human Resources Management took an average of 34 days to prepare shortlists and the Department took an average of 185 days to submit its recommendations to the appointment and promotion bodies for these posts.

9. The overall recruitment time frames discussed above were more than twice the time frame of 120 days envisaged in the Secretary-General's report[1] on human resources management reform. *The Office of Human Resources Management commented that the time frame of 120 days was not applicable to recruitment during 2001, since the new staff selection system envisaged in the Secretary-General's report was implemented only with effect from 1 May 2002.* In the opinion of OIOS, the Office of Human Resources Management needs to take a proactive role in ensuring that vacancies are filled within the 120-day time frame under the new system. The Office's monitoring role requires strengthening to ensure that delays in the candidate evaluation and the departmental review are promptly followed up with the concerned departments. OIOS noted that the new staff selection system, to take effect from 1 May 2002, the "Galaxy system"[6] which was implemented after the completion of the audit, provides the Office of Human Resources Management with the capability of monitoring the recruitment process at each stage. This capability should be effectively used to ensure the timely filling of vacancies.

III. Evaluation of candidates

A. Use of scoring methods for evaluation

10. In order to protect the integrity of the recruitment process and ensure its transparency, OIOS had recommended, in its previous report of 1999 (A/55/397), that the Office of Human Resources Management should develop candidate evaluation criteria in the form of scoring and weighting methods. Such scoring methods would enable the reviewing officer to evaluate the qualifications and experience of each candidate in accordance with the evaluation criteria and to assign appropriate numerical scores. Candidates with the highest scores could be shortlisted for interview. OIOS is of the opinion that such an evaluation system would add significant value to the recruitment process and facilitate the shortlisting of the best available candidates. The Secretary-General's report of 1 August 2000 on human resources management reform[1] envisaged the establishment of such criteria for evaluating candidates' suitability under the new system.

11. The current audit disclosed that such an evaluation system had not been established for recruiting professional staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations during 2001. Although the Office of Human Resources Management provided some documentation to suggest that a scoring system had been used for evaluating candidates for certain posts, OIOS considered those evaluations to be of limited value because some of the selected candidates had not been rated at all, while other candidates, who had been highly rated, had not been shortlisted or interviewed. The reasons for these inconsistencies were not documented. The OIOS review concluded that, although an evaluation methodology was envisaged in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform, it had not been used in recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations during 2001. *The Office of Human Resources Management stated that the implementation of the new staff selection system would provide the necessary tools to screen and evaluate candidates on the basis of pre-determined rating criteria.*

B. Deviations from the requirements specified in vacancy announcements

12. Typically, a vacancy announcement issued by the Office of Human Resources Management specifies the duties and responsibilities associated with the post, as well as the competencies and skills expected of candidates in order to be considered for appointment. The competencies and skills in the vacancy announcement specify the educational qualifications required and the minimum number of years of experience that each candidate should possess. These eligibility requirements should serve as the basis for reviewing the applications received in response to the vacancy announcement.

13. In April 2001 (that is, after the issuance of vacancy announcements for posts authorized by the General Assembly on an emergency basis), the Office of Human Resources Management informed the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that, "in view of the wide variance in the number of years of experience specified in the individual vacancy announcements, and taking into account the positive experience in the 2000 Economic Commission for Africa recruitment campaign, the minimum number of years of experience will not be used as a criteria for evaluation. The evaluation of applications should be based on the quality and substance of candidates' qualifications and experience rather than on the number of years of experience".

14. OIOS noted that while the vacancy announcements issued by the Office of Human Resources Management during its recruitment campaign for the Economic Commission for Africa in 2000 did not specify the minimum number of years of experience, the vacancy announcements issued for the posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations clearly specified the minimum years of experience as a criterion for eligibility. OIOS is, therefore, of the view that the Office of Human Resources Management's advice to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that the minimum number of years of experience would not be used as a criterion for evaluation created a situation whereby candidates who did not meet the minimum requirement applied for the post and were considered for selection, whereas candidates who may not have applied because they did not meet the minimum requirement were excluded from consideration.

15. OIOS acknowledges that evaluation of applications should be based on the quality and substance rather than the number of years of candidates' experience. However, in order to maintain the integrity of the candidate evaluation process, the eligibility requirements specified in the vacancy announcements, including the minimum number of years of service required for the post, should be used as the criteria for evaluating the candidates. OIOS notes that, effective 1 May 2002, the responsibility for ensuring that candidates were evaluated on the basis of pre-approved evaluation criteria rests with the central review bodies.[6]

IV. Need to refine the requirements specified in vacancy announcements

16. The audit revealed several inconsistencies in the competencies and skills specified in the vacancy announcements for posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, including:

(a) The length of service specified in vacancy announcements for different posts at the P-3 level varied from "minimum 4 to 8 years" to "minimum 14 years". Some vacancy announcements did not specify the minimum years of work experience;

(b) Some vacancy announcements for posts at different levels (P-3 and P-4) in the same service specified identical academic qualifications and number of years of experience;

(c) The vacancy announcement for a P-5 post specified that candidates would be eligible even if they did not possess an advanced university degree (provided they had 15 years' professional experience), but the vacancy announcement for a P-4 post in the same service specified that an advanced university degree was required;

(d) The requirements specified in some vacancy announcements were contradictory, stating, for example: "approximately 8 to 12 years professional experience with over 10 years experience in ...";

(e) Vacancy announcements for similar posts at the same level in the same service specified different requirements concerning minimum years of experience.

17. *The Office of Human Resources Management stated that the competencies and skills specified in the vacancy announcements had been drawn from the job descriptions for the respective posts. Wide variations in the job descriptions for similar posts or posts at the same level were reflected in the vacancy announcements for those posts.* The Office's advice to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, asking the latter to disregard the minimum service requirement for evaluating candidates, was a consequence of the wide variance in the number of years of experience specified in the individual vacancy announcements.

18. In the opinion of OIOS, such disparities could lead to inequities in the recruitment process whereby candidates with a significantly greater number of years of experience would be appointed at the same level as other candidates possessing significantly less experience. To prevent such disparities from occurring, the Office of Human Resources Management needs to prepare generic job profiles specifying the broad requirements for appointment to similar posts at the same level. When such generic job profiles become available, vacancy announcements should be prepared in a manner that reflects the broad criteria identified in the generic job profiles, with appropriate changes to include more specific criteria related to the post. OIOS noted that the new staff selection system introduced effective 1 May 2002 envisages the preparation of generic job profiles. The Office of Human Resources Management needs to ensure that inconsistencies in the competencies and skills requirements for posts at the similar level are avoided in future vacancy announcements.

V. Utilization of the roster of selected candidates

19. According to normal recruitment procedures, the Office of Human Resources Management is required to issue a vacancy announcement every time a vacancy arises. With a view to expediting the process of filling the vacancies approved by the General Assembly on an emergency basis, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, in its report of 3 April 2001,[3] requested the Secretary-General to take measures to streamline and shorten the recruitment time frame. Although the Advisory Committee was informed that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations had worked with the Office of Human Resources Management to reduce the recruitment time frame from 260 to 190 days, the Committee felt that the 190-day time frame was still too long, particularly since the posts had been authorized on an emergency basis. On 12 April 2001, the Secretary-General issued a bulletin[7] enabling the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to select several candidates who met the requirements of a post. While the preferred candidate would be appointed to the post, the remaining selected candidates would be placed on a roster to be considered for appointment to similar posts that might arise in the future. Based on the Department's recommendations, the appointment and promotion bodies endorsed several candidates for placement on the roster for possible appointment when similar posts become available at a subsequent date.

20. OIOS reviewed the roster to determine the extent to which the Department of Peacekeeping Operations made use of it when filling new vacancies. Table 2 summarizes the number of candidates placed on the roster and the number that were either appointed or offered an appointment to a post. Of the 113 candidates cleared by the appointment and promotion bodies for appointment to various civilian posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, 73 (or approximately 65 per cent) were either appointed or offered an appointment. Likewise, of the 88 candidates identified for military and civilian police posts in the Department, 60 candidates were appointed or offered an appointment.

Table 2
Disposition of candidates on the roster

	Civilian posts	*Military and police posts*
Number of candidates on the roster during 2001	113	88
Number of candidates who were either appointed or offered an appointment (including those who declined)	73	60
Number of candidates remaining on the roster (as at 15 April 2002)	40	28

21. The audit determined that the establishment of the roster was generally useful in that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations did not have to go through the full recruitment cycle for filling new vacancies that were similar to those that had been circulated and filled

previously. OIOS noted a few instances (five posts, in all) when the Department asked the Office of Human Resources Management to issue new vacancy announcements while ignoring candidates who were readily available on the roster. *The Department of Peacekeeping Operations stated that the Secretary-General's bulletin of 12 April 2001 did not make it mandatory for programme managers to select candidates from the roster when new vacancies occurred. Sometimes, programme managers may decide to ask for the issuance of a new vacancy announcement with a view to improving the geographical distribution and/or gender balance in an organizational unit within the Department.* OIOS determined that although 68 candidates remained on the roster, posts similar to the ones for which they were selected had not become available and may not become available during the one-year period of the roster's validity.

VI. Geographical distribution and gender balance

A. Equitable geographical distribution

22. Legislative mandates governing the recruitment of professional staff for posts in the Secretariat require the Secretary-General to ensure that the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity serve as the paramount consideration for employment, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in accordance with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations. Although a vast majority of posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations are not governed by the system of desirable ranges set out in General Assembly resolution 42/220 A of 21 December 1987, and reaffirmed by the Assembly in its resolutions 51/226 of 3 April 1997 and 53/221 of 7 April 1999, established recruitment procedures nonetheless require that due regard be paid to recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.

23. General Assembly resolution 55/258 of 14 June 2001 reaffirms that the Secretary-General may consider external candidates for posts at the P-4 level, with due regard to geographical distribution, while giving fullest regard in filling those posts to candidates with the requisite qualifications and experience already in the service of the United Nations. Furthermore, in the same resolution, the Assembly agreed with the recommendation of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations that troop-contributing countries should be properly represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, reflecting their contribution to United Nations peacekeeping activities. When recruiting professional staff members for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, therefore, the Department is required to give due regard to the adequate representation of: (a) unrepresented and underrepresented countries; and (b) troop-contributing countries. In conjunction with these requirements, the Department must pay due regard to the special measures for achieving gender equality, as well as the recruitment of candidates who are already in the service of the United Nations.

24. Since most of the posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations are not subject to the desirable range system, no clear numerical targets exist for ensuring that the Department achieves equitable geographical distribution on the basis of mandated standards. The establishment of such mandated standards for equitable geographical distribution is further complicated by the fact that some of the major troop-contributing and/or police-contributing countries are overrepresented in the Secretariat with regard to posts covered by the system of desirable ranges.

25. The analysis conducted by OIOS of the nationalities of candidates selected for appointment to the 67 professional posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations that were filled pursuant to the approval of 93 posts on an emergency basis revealed the following:

(a) Of the 67 selected candidates, 59 (or approximately 88 per cent) were from troop-contributing and/or police-contributing countries. Although the remaining eight candidates were not from troop- or police-contributing countries, their countries were not overrepresented in the Secretariat in posts to which the system of desirable ranges applied;

(b) Of the 59 candidates from troop- and police-contributing countries, 43 were from countries that were among the top 20 troop and police contributors;

(c) Sixteen selected candidates were from countries that were overrepresented in the Secretariat under the desirable range system. However, all of those countries are troop contributors. Six candidates were

from underrepresented countries, of which five candidates' countries are troop contributors.

26. In broad terms, it appeared that the geographical distribution of candidates selected by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations for appointment to posts approved by the General Assembly on an emergency basis was well dispersed. However, in view of the special importance attached to equitable geographical distribution by the Organization's legislative bodies, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations needs to review the geographical distribution of its professional staff and take appropriate steps to further improve the situation while recruiting professional staff for the additional posts approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 56/241 of 1 February 2002. *The Department of Peacekeeping Operations commented that, in respect of these additional posts for which recruitment is currently under way, due regard would once again be given to the need for achieving equitable geographical distribution.*

B. Gender balance

27. With regard to gender balance, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided statistics indicating that 21 out of the 67 (or almost 31 per cent) professional staff selected for appointment to the posts approved by the General Assembly on an emergency basis were women. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations explained that this achievement resulted from the special efforts made by programme managers to shortlist as many women candidates as possible from the pool of applications received. In the opinion of OIOS, in order to further improve the gender balance, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations needs to formulate a targeted approach, if necessary in consultation with the Office of Human Resources Management and the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Such an approach should set broad targets and take additional measures, such as specifically requesting Member States to increase the number of women candidates recommended for consideration in making appointments to military and civilian police posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. *The Department of Peacekeeping Operations clarified that it had taken measures for improving gender balance. Notes verbale under which military and civilian police posts are circulated currently include a request for Member States to recommend women candidates. The Department will seek to identify additional means for increasing the representation of women.*

VII. Recommendations

28. OIOS made the following recommendations to improve the practices and procedures for recruiting staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Although the audit scope was limited to reviewing the recruitment of professional staff for the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OIOS suggested that the Office of Human Resources Management consider implementing recommendations 1, 2, 3 and 4 below, while recruiting staff for all Departments of the Secretariat. Comments received from the Office of Human Resources Management and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations on the implementation status of the recommendations are summarized after each recommendation.

Recommendation 1

29. The Office of Human Resources Management should effectively monitor the recruitment process for each vacancy to ensure that the recruitment time frames envisaged in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform are achieved (AP2002/55/2/1).*

30. *The Office of Human Resources Management accepted this recommendation and commented that the "Galaxy system" would facilitate the monitoring of the recruitment process.*

Recommendation 2

31. The Office of Human Resources Management should ensure that the criteria for evaluating candidates are established prior to issuance of each vacancy announcement. To increase the objectivity of the candidate evaluation process, the Office should encourage programme managers to make use of numeric ratings established prior to issuance of each vacancy announcement, as envisaged in the Secretary-General's report on human resources management reform (AP2002/55/2/2).

* The symbols in parentheses in this section refer to an internal code used by OIOS for recording recommendations.

32. *The Office of Human Resources Management accepted the recommendation and stated that it would ensure that no applications are transmitted to programme managers for evaluation until the relevant criteria had been approved by the central review bodies. The "Galaxy system", introduced with effect from 1 May 2002, provides programme managers with the necessary tools for evaluating candidates in accordance with pre-approved evaluation criteria. The numeric ratings serve as an optional sorting mechanism for those vacancies that may attract a large number of applications.*

Recommendation 3

33. In order to eliminate inconsistencies and disparities in the eligibility requirements for posts at the same level, the Office of Human Resources Management should prepare generic job profiles and ensure that vacancy announcements are consistent with such generic job profiles (AP2002/55/2/3).

34. *The Office of Human Resources Management accepted this recommendation and noted that more than 30 sets of generic job profiles had already been approved for professional posts in the Secretariat and in special missions. The Office will ensure consistency between generic job profiles and vacancy announcements.*

Recommendation 4

35. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations should review the current composition of its staff in terms of geographical distribution and take appropriate steps with a view to further improving the situation during the next phase of recruitment for the additional posts approved by the General Assembly in February 2002 (AP2002/55/2/4).

36. *The Department of Peacekeeping Operations accepted this recommendation.*

Recommendation 5

37. To improve the gender balance, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should set broad targets and take additional measures, including specific requests to Member States, to increase the number of women officers recommended for consideration in making appointments to military and civilian posts in the Secretariat (AP2002/55/2/5).

38. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations accepted this recommendation and noted that it is committed to improving the gender balance within the Department.

(Signed) Dileep **Nair**
Under-Secretary-General
Office of Internal Oversight Services

Notes

[1] A/55/253.

[2] A/55/305-S/2000/809.

[3] A/55/882.

[4] The average number of days for 1999 relates to Professional posts in the Secretariat as a whole (see A/55/397). For 2001, the average relates only to Professional posts in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

[5] ST/AI/1999/8, sect. 3.6.

[6] See ST/AI/2002/4.

[7] ST/SGB/2001/4.

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Item 22 (d) of the provisional agenda*
Cooperation between the United Nations and regional and other organizations

Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe

Report of the Secretary-General**

Summary

The General Assembly, in its resolution 56/43, requested the Secretary-General to continue exploring possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe, and decided to include the sub-item in the agenda of its fifty-seventh session. It also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on cooperation between the two organizations.

The report outlines the cooperation that has taken place between the United Nations, bodies within the United Nations common system and the Council of Europe since the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly. The report identifies efforts made to develop practical cooperation at the working level, in the field, and in the areas of conflict prevention, peace-building, human rights and laws, development, the promotion of democracy, and prevention of terrorism, as well as overall cooperation between various Council of Europe and United Nations bodies and in their respective competencies.

* A/57/150/Rev.1.

** This document was submitted for processing after the established submission deadline owing to the delay in receipt of some United Nations system contributions.

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I. Introduction

1. At its fifty-sixth session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Secretary-General on cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe (A/56/302), unanimously adopted resolution 56/43. In that resolution, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to continue exploring, with the Chairman of the Committee of Ministers and the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, possibilities for further enhancement of cooperation, information exchange and coordination between the United Nations and the Council, and decided to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the sub-item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe". The Assembly also requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-seventh session a report on cooperation between the two organizations in implementation of the resolution. The present report is submitted in compliance with that request.

II. Consultations and exchanges of information

2. Pursuant to the principles and intent of the cooperation agreement between the Council of Europe and the Secretariat of the United Nations, signed on 15 December 1951, and the follow-up agreement of 19 November 1971, the Arrangement on Cooperation and Liaison, between the secretariats of the United Nations and the Council, the two organizations have continued to cooperate on matters of mutual interest. Since the last report to the General Assembly (A/56/302), cooperation between the United Nations and the Council has continued through the observer status of the Council in the Assembly, direct contacts between the secretariats of the two organizations and between the Council and the bodies of the United Nations common system. The Secretaries-General of the two organizations have also exchanged formal communications on an array of issues. There have also been exchanges between the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council.

III. Information received from the United Nations system

A. United Nations Headquarters

1. Department of Political Affairs

3. Representatives of the Council of Europe and the Department of Political Affairs held several meetings in the course of the year. The Department was invited to and participated in the high-level tripartite meeting held in Strasbourg on 8 February 2002. As the focal point for cooperation with regional organizations, the Department convened the working level meeting between the United Nations and regional organizations, which was held from 30 April to 2 May 2002, in which the Council and 17 other regional organizations participated actively. The main purpose of the meeting was to develop practical cooperation at the working level in the field of conflict prevention and peace-building, early warning preventive action, consultation and coordination, division of labour, socio-economic root causes of conflict and promotion of democracy and prevention of terrorism.

2. Department of Peacekeeping Operations

(a) United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

4. The United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and the Council of Europe have cooperated and consulted on political, administrative and legal reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Bosnia and Herzegovina has resolutely supported the country's accession to the Council. The Special Representative met with the Secretary-General of the Council of Europe, Walter Schwimmer, on 7 February 2002 to discuss accession and post-accession assistance programmes as well as the post-accession requirements of Bosnia and Herzegovina. There are 91 post-accession requirements and many of them pertain to the rule of law. UNMIBH, within the limits and duration of its mandate, will work towards helping Bosnia and Herzegovina in the fulfilment of these requirements.

5. UNMIBH, along with the Office of the High Representative, has been working with the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe on the

elaboration of the proposed draft law on establishing the State Information and Protection Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a view to ensuring that it conforms with European standards of policing and transparency and also meets the requirements of the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the Protocols thereto. This partnership with the Venice Commission greatly enhanced the draft law that was put forward to the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina for debate and approval. Representatives of UNMIBH and the Council met regularly to discuss the rule of law, human rights, pluralistic democracy and respect for minorities.

(b) United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

6. Collaboration between the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the Council of Europe is continuing in all fields. The Secretary-General of the Council and his staff have shown preparedness to support UNMIK whenever this was required. The Council has given flexible technical support by providing examples of the highest quality legislative processes. The institution-building pillar and the Council have developed a relationship of cooperation on many levels, particularly in the realm of judicial and legal training, elections and the preparation of legislation. Where legislation has human rights implications, the Council has provided valuable assistance in the drafting of regulations at the request of UNMIK. The Council experts provided major technical input in the drafting of the Constitutional Framework.

7. The Council of Europe representation in the Joint Advisory Council on Legislative Matters, the main Kosovo body which provides UNMIK with consultative services on legislation matters, has provided input in a number of important pieces of legislation in the field of criminal justice. Council experts have also gone to Kosovo for periods of several weeks to work with Kosovo experts in the drafting and revision of criminal legislation. The Council readily supplies relevant legislation from member States and other technical documentation required in the preparation of legislation.

8. Collaboration between the Council of Europe and the Kosovo Judicial Institute is particularly strong, and takes the form of the co-organization of training seminars and workshops for judges, prosecutors and defence counsel. Joint symposiums and various round tables have been organized regarding domestic violence, to assess the level of assistance to victims. The Kosovo Law Centre has agreed with human rights experts from the Council to introduce human rights law courses into the University of Prishtine/Pristina Law Faculty Curriculum. Council experts have assisted the institution-building pillar in the formulation of legal documents, including the draft Broadcasting Regulation. In the field of human rights and awareness training, the Council has undertaken a capacity-building programme entitled "Roma under the Stability Pact", and facilitated the preparation and holding of a public awareness campaign on the Institution of Ombudsperson.

9. Cooperation between the institution-building pillar and the Council of Europe on electoral matters has been extensive over the past two-and-a-half years. The Kosovo-wide election on 17 November 2001 was monitored by the Council Election Observation Mission II. The Council also assessed electoral preparations in the field through numerous visits to UNMIK field offices and regional centres. Council of Europe observers visited polling stations on election day to ensure that the counting and the announcement of results were carried out objectively and transparently; their assessments highlighted the impartiality and effectiveness of procedures of the Central Election Commission. The Mission's reports and recommendations were welcomed by the institution-building pillar. With the upcoming municipal elections in Kosovo in autumn 2002, the institution-building pillar is prepared again to cooperate closely with the Council's observers. The Council has also played an advisory role in the management of the institution-building pillar-led Institute of Civil Administration. Until summer 2001, the Director of the Institute was seconded from the Council. It also seconded a police officer to the Kosovo Police Service School for a project on multimedia training developed jointly by the Council and the Constitutional and Legal Policy Institute in Bucharest.

10. A one-year youth training course, which started in October 2001, is making an important contribution to the empowerment of young people and to the building of a democratic and participative society in Kosovo. It aims to enhance the dialogue between communities by providing space for the creation, development and evaluation of local youth projects and

introducing participants to European youth structures and programmes and concepts such as voluntary work.

11. From February to April 2002, the Council of Europe Directorate of Youth and Sport led and supported two brainstorming sessions on youth policy development for the staff of the Department of Youth. Staff members have also been invited to attend seminars in Strasbourg, France, and Budapest (Young Women Empowerment; Non-Formal Education; Monitoring Group for the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe; Working Table on Youth Stability Pact) and activities in other countries. The Directorate of Youth and Sport continues to support and promote interregional participation for Kosovo non-governmental organizations. Kosovo participated in the "Mosaic" Project, which exposed Kosovo cultural managers and European experts to new management concepts and tools.

12. UNMIK participates regularly in the meetings of the Education Committee and the Committee on Higher Education and Research. The Council of Europe, for its part, has provided expert contributions to the drafting of the Law on General and Higher Education, under a World Bank project (2000-2002).

13. In the Mitrovica region, the Council of Europe is actively involved in the promotion and dissemination of human rights education. The Council initiated a pilot project entitled "Human Rights Awareness Campaign" in September 2001. This is currently being implemented in 10 primary schools in Mitrovica. The Council also started another pilot project entitled "Youth Human Rights Capacity Building/Human Rights Clubs". It stems from the feedback from students and teachers participating in the first project and their desire to promote self-sustainable human rights awareness activities. This project is currently under way in two schools in the Mitrovica region.

14. The Council of Europe has paid close attention to the development of local government in Kosovo, from the drafting of initial legislation to the formation of the Association of Kosovo Municipalities. The members of the Association were invited to participate in an Economic Forum in Istanbul, Turkey, last year. In March 2002, the Brussels-based Congress of Regional and Local Authorities in Europe of the Council of Europe voted in favour of granting observer status to the Association of Kosovo Municipalities.

(c) United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia

15. Cooperation between the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) and the Council of Europe has been productive. Efforts by the two organizations, aimed at finding a comprehensive settlement for the conflict in Abkhazia, Georgia, and normalizing the situation in the Gali district, thereby facilitating the return of internally displaced persons are continuing.

16. A second seminar on State-legal aspects of the settlement of the conflict, to be held in Tbilisi in July 2001, was cancelled because of incidents on the ground. The political dialogue between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides was also interrupted. The session was to be a follow-up to the Pitsunda seminar of 12 and 13 February 2001, organized by the Council of Europe in cooperation with the United Nations, in which Alvaro Gil-Robles, the Council's Commissioner for Human Rights, and Gianni Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission, participated. The session presented the sides with the opportunity to argue their position on issues including statehood and self-determination in the presence of international legal experts, who offered clarifications based on the prevailing international legal doctrine and practice. The Council has declared its readiness to continue to facilitate such seminars in the future.

17. Members of the Joint Assessment Mission to the Gali district which was conducted from 20 to 24 November 2000 under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of the Council of Europe and other international organizations, convened in Tbilisi on 24 September 2001 to discuss, together with representatives of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides, possible ways to implement the recommendations set forth in the Mission report. The Council was particularly interested in the issue of language policy in the Gali schools, where there was a predominantly Georgian-speaking population. The Council of Europe has expressed its readiness to explore funding possibilities for the translation of textbooks into the Georgian language.

18. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Georgia continues to exchange views with representatives of the Council of Europe. On 3 December 2001, he met with Jean-Louis Laurens, Director of the Directorate of Strategic Planning, to exchange views on the situation and matters of mutual

concern, and to identify joint opportunities to further the cause of durable peace in Georgia. On 29 April 2002, Christa Lörcher, a German Member of Parliament and member of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, visited the UNOMIG Tbilisi Office as part of her task of gathering information and reporting to the Assembly on the situation in Georgia and the consequences for the stability of the Caucasus region.

B. United Nations Office at Geneva

19. The United Nations Office at Geneva participated in the annual high-level and target-oriented tripartite meetings, convened by the Council of Europe in February 2002 in Strasbourg. Besides the original tripartite partners, namely the United Nations, the Council and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the process now informally includes the European Commission and others, referred to as "tripartite plus". The annual "tripartite plus" meetings early in 2003 will mark the tenth anniversary of this process. Plans for the anniversary meeting will take into account the Framework for Cooperation in Peace-building adopted at the Fourth High-Level Meeting on Cooperation between the United Nations and Regional Organizations in February 2001 and the follow-up working-level meeting held from 30 April to 2 May 2002. In identifying themes for the 2003 target-oriented discussion, priority will be given to areas where the United Nations, the Council and other "tripartite plus" partners are working together in post-conflict situations.

20. The United Nations Office at Geneva and the Council of Europe maintain excellent bilateral relations and regular high-level contact through meetings between the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, the Secretary-General of the Council and the Chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly. The two organizations share information on areas of mutual interest and exchange electronic data. The Council has been invited to participate in activities of the informal network linking the Geneva- and Turin-based United Nations research and training institutes.

C. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

21. Important steps forward were taken on cooperation between the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Council of Europe during the year under review. The Council was a key participant in the International Conference on Human Rights and Democratization in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus, co-organized by OHCHR, the Government of Croatia and the European Commission, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 8 to 10 October 2001. The Conference offered Governments, regional organizations, national institutions and representatives of civil society an opportunity to review developments in the field of human rights in Europe, Central Asia and the Caucasus. The Council was represented at the Conference by its Secretary-General, who provided key input in the discussions and conference conclusions which, inter alia, encouraged OHCHR, the Council, and other regional organizations to enhance their cooperation in the fields of human rights and democratization.

22. High-level contacts continue between OHCHR and the Council of Europe. The Council's Commissioner for Human Rights and the Director of the Council's Directorate of Human Rights participated in the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. On 8 February 2002, the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the Council in Strasbourg on the occasion of the annual tripartite meeting between the United Nations, the Council, OSCE and others. It was agreed then that each organization would include in its training curricula and materials information on standards and procedures of both the European and universal human rights systems. This issue had also been discussed at a workshop on human rights manuals co-organized by OHCHR and the Raoul Wallenberg Institute, with the participation of the Council, in Lund, Sweden, in December 2001.

23. Working-level consultations on human rights issues have continued between the two organizations. The Council of Europe remains a key regional partner in the follow-up to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, and organized a follow-up meeting in Strasbourg on 27 and 28 February 2002. At that time, member States of the Council also discussed

implementation of the conclusions of the European and world conferences against racism. The Council indicated that it would act to mainstream the results of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the European Conference into its activities and produce a paper summarizing its main activities in this field. Future cooperation is expected to include the continued sharing of information and the participation of the Council in activities undertaken by the Anti-Discrimination Unit of OHCHR.

24. OHCHR and the Council of Europe are cooperating on a regional strategy against trafficking in human beings and on the issue of national human rights institutions. The two organizations are working together in the Task Force on Trafficking in Human Beings and the Gender Task Force of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe. On 9 April 2002, the Council and OHCHR co-sponsored a panel discussion entitled "Combating Trafficking in Human Beings — A European Convention?" on the occasion of the fifty-eighth session of the Commission on Human Rights at Geneva. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, for example, OHCHR joined the Council and OSCE in providing advice to Yugoslav authorities on establishing a national institution that conforms to the Paris Principles.

25. OHCHR and the Council of Europe have worked together on the issue of human rights and terrorism. On 29 November 2001, the two organizations, together with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of OSCE, issued a joint statement calling on Governments to ensure respect for human rights even as they take strong measures to prevent further recurrences of terrorism. OHCHR sent expert representatives to participate in the deliberations of the Group of Specialists on Human Rights and the Fight against Terrorism, established by the Council to draft guidelines for its member States on ensuring that anti-terrorism measures conform to international human rights standards.

26. On 3 May 2002, the High Commissioner for Human Rights participated in the one hundred tenth session of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe in Vilnius, and addressed some issues of common concern, including the question of human rights and anti-terrorism. She, and her Council counterpart, Mr. Gil-Robles, discussed ways to strengthen cooperation between the two offices. OHCHR and the Council have agreed to hold working-level consultations at Geneva and Strasbourg twice a year, reflecting a strengthened partnership and recognition of the benefits such cooperation can bring to each organization.

D. Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

27. The Council of Europe and the Centre for International Crime Prevention continue to share common interests in combating transnational organized crime, trafficking, corruption and terrorism in Europe. The first inter-agency meeting on cooperation on and the coordination of anti-corruption activities was held at Vienna in February 2002, in order to enhance information sharing, cooperation and coordination in delivery of assistance. Future inter-agency meetings will focus on the coordination of anti-corruption strategic action plans.

28. The Council of Europe was involved in the negotiations of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto as well as in the ongoing negotiations regarding the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The Council participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Corruption, held at Vienna from 21 January to 1 February 2002.

29. Cooperation between the Centre and the Council of Europe has been effective, but could be strengthened further through information sharing, cooperation and better coordination. Possible areas for strengthening cooperation, information and expertise sharing between the two organizations have been identified to include: the European Committee on Crime Problems; the Group of Specialists on criminal law and criminological aspects of organized crime, set up by the European Committee to write reports on trends of organized criminal groups operating in Europe and to prepare "best practices" studies on organized crime; the Multi-disciplinary Group on International Action against Terrorism; Group of States against corruption; the European Committee on Legal Cooperation; and the Group against organized crime.

30. Since both the Centre and the Council of Europe receive requests from various European countries for technical assistance on organized crime, corruption, terrorism and trafficking, a mechanism for information

sharing on these requests could also help to avoid duplication. This mechanism would further strengthen cooperation between the two organizations, ensure the efficient use of resources and the coordination of efforts, as well as reinforce the focused nature of field activities.

31. Since its inception in 1997, the Global Programme against Money Laundering has been working closely with the Council of Europe secretariat in carrying out joint anti-money-laundering technical assistance activities in Eastern Europe. The Programme regularly participates in plenary meetings and money-laundering typology exercises of the Select Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money Laundering Measures. This Committee was created by the secretariat under the Combating Economic Crime Unit of the Directorate General for Legal Affairs to ensure the harmonization of legal, financial and penal provisions in the Council of Europe member States which are not members of the Financial Action Task Force.

32. The Council of Europe is also one of the seven international organizations comprising the Advisory Group of the International Money Laundering Information Network, a common anti-money-laundering web site and database administered by the Global Programme against Money Laundering, through which essential information is gathered, exchanged and analysed for the benefit of all national and international anti-money-laundering agencies. The Programme and the Council's Select Committee of Experts are also members of a group that meets regularly under the auspices of the World Bank to coordinate technical assistance in anti-money-laundering and countering the financing of terrorism.

33. The secretariat of the International Narcotics Control Board and the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe have been cooperating since the late 1980s, mainly in the area of the control of illicit movements of psychotropic substances. The cooperation between the Control Board and the Governments forming the Pompidou Group facilitated the implementation in Europe of the control provisions of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances. Pursuant to the recommendations of the three joint Control Board and Pompidou Group conferences in 1993, 1995 and 1998 on the control of psychotropic substances in Europe, technical meetings of experts have been held on the subjects of the control of intermediaries in international trade in psychotropic substances and precursors (1995), diagnosis and treatment with stimulants of attention deficit disorder (1999) and control of benzodiazepines (2001).

E. United Nations Development Programme

34. The Council of Europe, the United States Agency for International Development, the World Bank, the Open Society Institute and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), have been working together to develop the Local Government Information Network project. The aim of the project is to facilitate information sharing among local governments and related organizations within Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, and to improve the effectiveness of Government at the local level.

35. The Council of Europe Development Bank has provided two grants to the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In 1998, the sum of 1 million euros was given to help to mitigate the impact of the crisis in Kosovo. In April 2001, the Development Bank again pledged another 1 million euros in the context of the humanitarian crisis resulting from the armed conflicts. UNDP was requested by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to administer these two grants in support of the following two initiatives: (a) communal water infrastructure improvement of the municipalities of Vizbegovo and Suto; and (b) immediate community rehabilitation support. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, UNDP is cooperating with the Council in the area of judiciary reform at the policy level.

F. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

36. Since 1996, when the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) established a Liaison Office to the European Institutions in Strasbourg, cooperation with the Council of Europe has developed into a comprehensive partnership, focusing on the development of legal standards, the raising of awareness of human rights and the strengthening of civil societies as these relate to persons of concern to UNHCR. Relations between the two organizations have evolved significantly over the

last six years as the Council's unique and nearly complete pan-European membership coincides with the continued operational involvement of UNHCR in the refugee and displaced population problems of Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe.

37. Through the promotion of democratic stability, the protection of human rights and the monitoring of its member States' commitments, the Council of Europe also contributes to the mandate of UNHCR by fostering an environment conducive to improving the situation of refugees and asylum-seekers and, in the longer term, to enhancing the stability of Europe and preventing further population displacements. The complementarity of their mandates was given new impetus in 1999 when UNHCR and the Council signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation. This cooperation framework seeks to maximize the specificities of each organization by encouraging a mutually reinforcing partnership in areas of common interest, notably through reciprocal representation at relevant working meetings and the implementation of joint cooperation activities where appropriate.

38. There are regular high-level visits between UNHCR and the secretariat of the Council of Europe. The High Commissioner for Refugees met the Council's Secretary-General during his visit to Strasbourg and addressed the Parliamentary Assembly on 27 June 2001. In February 2002, the Assistant High Commissioner attended the annual high-level "tripartite-plus" meeting hosted by the Council in Strasbourg. Consultation and coordination on the development of integrated strategies and action plans are increasingly taking place, together with other relevant partners. Field-based offices of both organizations regularly consult and share information.

39. The specificity and comparative advantage of each organization's mandate or expertise have enhanced joint cooperation. For UNHCR, one of the most significant aspects of this cooperation is the drafting of legal standards related to asylum and to the treatment of refugees and asylum-seekers, as well as the development of national citizenship legislation and of civil society (non-governmental organizations).

40. UNHCR enjoys observer status at and actively participates in all meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee of Experts on the Legal Aspects of Refugees, the European Committee on Migration and the Committee of Experts on Nationality. Over the last year, UNHCR has participated in the drafting of recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on family reunion and the detention of asylum-seekers, which were adopted in March and April 2002 respectively. The 2002-2003 work programme of the Ad Hoc Committee, in which UNHCR continues to take a very active role, includes a recommendation on membership of a particular social group. UNHCR also addressed the second European Conference on Nationality, held in Strasbourg on 8 and 9 October 2001.

41. The Specialist Group on Roma is a technical body of the European Committee on Migration to which UNHCR devotes particular attention, since a large number of refugees and displaced persons in South-Eastern Europe are of Roma origin. Aside from actively participating in Committee meetings which focus on the development of institutions and national strategies, a number of joint concrete activities are also undertaken at the field level. With regard to Stability Pact initiatives, UNHCR and the Council of Europe Development Bank continue to explore modalities of concrete cooperation to support the implementation of solutions for refugees and displaced persons in that region.

42. UNHCR and the Council of Europe continue to elaborate and implement annually a joint programme of technical assistance in selected member States on a variety of thematic issues. Themes addressed in these workshops or seminars include the development and implementation of citizenship laws and the avoidance of statelessness (Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Russian Federation, Serbia and Montenegro in 2002); legislation concerning foreigners (Moldova in 2001); border management and the treatment of asylum-seekers (Armenia in 2002); and the development and implementation of legislation on non-governmental organizations (Azerbaijan in 2001 and 2002).

43. In the region of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Council of Europe has formally joined UNHCR, the International Organization for Migration and OSCE as co-lead agency in this thematic framework with a focus on citizenship and statelessness, as well as on the legal framework for non-governmental organizations. These agencies are currently exploring the possibility of holding a high-level review meeting on refugees, migration and security in autumn 2002.

44. UNHCR collaborates with a number of the committees of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and especially with the Committee on Migration, Refugees and Demography. UNHCR field offices assist the visits of the Committee's rapporteurs, as was the case for Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia and Montenegro in April 2002. UNHCR participates as observer in Committee meetings and shares information and observations with regard to draft reports and recommendations, as was the case for the report and recommendation on UNHCR and the fiftieth anniversary of the Geneva Convention which was adopted by the Parliamentary Assembly on 27 June 2001. The recommendation, inter alia, reaffirms the member States' commitment to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. Since June 2001, two additional member States of the Council (Ukraine and Moldova) have acceded to this human rights instrument.

45. As the broader regional human rights instrument, the European Convention on Human Rights constitutes a useful complement to the international instruments specifically related to the protection of refugees. It also establishes an enforcement mechanism for its implementation — the European Court of Human Rights — whose jurisprudence can complement international refugee law. UNHCR cooperates with the Court through the sharing of information, particularly concerning UNHCR public protection guidelines related to specific refugee or displacement situations.

46. UNHCR and the Council of Europe's Directorate of Human Rights have jointly conducted national workshops on the European Convention on Human Rights and its relevance to the protection of refugees, displaced persons and asylum-seekers in selected countries. Such events are planned for Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine in 2002.

G. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

47. The Council of Europe and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) maintain fruitful cooperation and coordinate activities in the fields of education, science, culture and communication. Committees of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council have also cooperated with UNESCO.

48. UNESCO has been cooperating, through the Council of Europe, in the field of academic mobility and the recognition of studies, diplomas and degrees in the European region. This cooperation has involved merging the two networks of national information centres for mobility and recognition, previously administered separately by each organization, into a joint entity, known as the European Network of Information Centres.

49. The Council of Europe cooperated with UNESCO in the framework of the Stability Pact Task Force "Education and Youth" and in implementing the Technical Cooperation and Consultancy Programme in south-east Kosovo. Both institutions cooperated in connection with the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001-2010. The Council of Europe plans to further enhance this cooperation through the new project of the Higher Education and Research Committee, "University as a Site of Citizenship".

50. UNESCO and the Council of Europe cooperated with the secretariat of the Lisbon Recognition Convention Committee. The Committee, at its second meeting, adopted the Recommendation on Criteria and Procedures for the Assessment of Foreign Qualifications and the Code of Good Practice in the Provision of Transnational Education (Riga, 6 June 2001). A joint Council of Europe and UNESCO exploratory mission on education for democratic citizenship was organized in July 2001 in Serbia. It was followed up by a consultation seminar of practitioners of education for democratic citizenship in December 2002, also in Serbia.

51. Pursuant to the recommendation of the European Forum of Young Scientists on 28 September 2001, the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe adopted its Recommendation 1541 (2001) on Young Scientists in Europe.

52. The Council of Europe is involved in the activities undertaken by UNESCO in the field of bioethics, in particular in the work of the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO. At the eighth session, held in Paris from 12 to 14 September 2001, the Council representative was given the opportunity to present the Council's strategy and activities in bioethics. UNESCO, for its part, regularly attends the meetings of the Council's Steering Committee on

Bioethics and the European Conference of National Ethics Committees.

53. Cooperation was established between the Council of Europe and UNESCO in connection with the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (2001). Last November, the Conference on cultural industries and new information technologies was organized in cooperation with UNESCO in Strasbourg. Both the Secretary-General of the Council and the Director-General of UNESCO participated in the Conference.

H. United Nations Environment Programme

54. Over the years, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have cooperated in the field of nature protection and biodiversity conservation. The cooperation between these organizations was significantly enhanced after the Third Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held in Sofia in 1995, when the ministers of environment of 53 countries endorsed the Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy and invited the Council of Europe and UNEP to set up appropriate structures for its implementation. Pursuant to an agreement of cooperation signed in 1996 providing the basis for establishing a Council of the Strategy and an Executive Bureau, the two organizations have jointly hosted the secretariat for the Strategy and provided its Coordinator on a rotational basis. The current Coordinator of the joint secretariat is being provided by UNEP and after the Fifth Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", to be held in Kiev in May 2003, this position will revert to the Council of Europe.

55. The Strategy is a regional forum for promoting the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in Europe, based on the approach of relevant multilateral environmental agreements while maintaining regional priorities set by the "Environment for Europe" process. The overall objective of the Strategy is to raise the political profile of and facilitate concrete action for the conservation of biodiversity and landscape in Europe.

I. International Labour Office

56. In accordance with the supervisory procedure established under article 74 (4) of the European Code of Social Security and the arrangements made between the International Labour Office (ILO) and the Council of Europe, ILO, through its Committee of Experts, participates regularly in the supervision of the application of the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto. The reason for this rare example of international cooperation is that the European Code of Social Security is based on the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). Under this supervisory mandate, ILO functions also as a member of the Council's European Committee of Experts on Standard-Setting Instruments. In addition, ILO is an active observer in the European Committee for Social Cohesion.

57. Since September 2000, ILO has been involved in the Council of Europe's programme of assistance on European standard-setting instruments in Central and Eastern European member and observer States, in the framework of the Council's activities for the development and consolidation of democratic stability. The programme assists national authorities in examining the conformity of their current and planned social security legislation with the European Code of Social Security and the Protocol thereto, and more broadly in defining a national social security framework compatible with European standards. One of the main activities of ILO within this programme is the assessment and presentation of the resulting conclusions on the compatibility of the national social security legislation of these countries with the provisions of the Code and the Protocol. The conclusions produced are used to assess the ratification prospects of the Code by the countries concerned, check the orientation of their current reforms and modify their legislation and practice in line with international standards.

58. The collaboration between ILO and the Council of Europe resulted in Moldova's signing the European Convention on Social Security at the eighth conference of European Ministers responsible for social security, held in Bratislava in May 2002. Romania has also signed the European Code of Social Security. The Government of Lithuania has indicated that it will sign the Code in the near future. The Government of Ukraine has indicated that it is in the process of implementing the provisions of the European Code of Social Security and the ILO Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention, 1952 (No. 102). ILO played an active role during the Bratislava conference of

ministers, which was devoted to analysing the implications of labour migration for social security systems in European countries. One outcome of the Conference is that the Council of Europe and ILO have agreed to strengthen collaboration between the ILO social protection sector and the European Committee for Social Cohesion on these issues and on those related to poverty alleviation and sustainable development.

59. ILO organized a course held in Budapest in March 2002 for Central and East European countries on the statistical data required for the report form of the European Code of Social Security and to explain more generally the reporting obligations entailed by the Code and the statistical conditions proving compliance with its requirements. Joint ILO and Council of Europe seminars on the Code and minimum standards of social security were organized in 2001 for the Baltic States, the Russian Federation and Ukraine.

60. ILO and the Council of Europe are the principal organizations involved in the formulation and execution of social security activities for the Initiative for Social Cohesion of the Stability Pact. A joint proposal for a three-year project has been developed in the region, in which the two organizations would collaborate in several areas, including the promotion of standards and strengthening of the delivery of social services. The two organizations are also working together on planning a pension conference for South-East Europe, to be held in Ljubljana in September 2002 under the auspices of the Initiative.

61. ILO has been participating in sessions of the European Committee of Social Rights, in an advisory capacity. It has participated in technical meetings of the Council of Europe concerning, inter alia, disabled persons, ethical issues, employment for marginalized groups and training in social security, in meetings of the Council's Committee of Experts on Integration and Community Relations and in those of the Forum on Children and Families.

J. World Health Organization

62. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe, supported by the WHO Office at the European Union, has been promoting tripartite cooperation in the field of health with the Council of Europe and the European Commission, particularly in collaboration with committees and working groups that are active in the fields of public health, social cohesion and bioethics. This tripartite cooperation led to the setting-up of a Network of Health-Promoting Schools, run jointly by these three organizations with a single technical secretariat headed by WHO in Copenhagen. Thanks to this integrational initiative, today the Network has 41 member States benefiting from health education in their schools.

63. The WHO Regional Office for Europe is now represented systematically at the European Public Health Committee. It participated in the Health Ministers' Forum: Health Development and Action for South-East Europe in the Twenty-First Century, held in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in August 2001, to strengthen the international partnership for health actions in the region of South-East Europe. WHO and the Council of Europe are the two major partners in the social cohesion initiative of the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, inaugurated in July 1999.

64. WHO experts are also participating in the committee on the impact of information technologies on health care and the committee on health and the media. The participation of WHO in the Council of Europe steering committee on health helps to identify concerns and possible action. This bilateral cooperation is of particular interest since both WHO and its Regional Office for Europe and the Council of Europe share some member States that are neither part of the European Union nor candidate countries.

65. The joint Council of Europe and WHO Regional Office for Europe action in 2001 resulted in the establishment of the South-East Europe Health Network for Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania and Yugoslavia. Based on the countries' review on access to health for vulnerable populations in the region, the ministers of health of the seven South-East Europe member States reached an unprecedented political agreement for cooperation and concerted action for health development in the region.

66. The international community, in particular the Governments of Greece, France, Italy and Switzerland, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the Council of Europe and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, has pledged both technical and financial support (amounting altogether up to 4 million euros) for four of the seven projects involving regional cooperation,

namely, "enhancing social cohesion by strengthening community mental health services in South-East Europe"; "strengthening the surveillance and control of communicable diseases in South-East Europe"; "strengthening the food safety and nutrition services to secure access to safe and affordable food in South-East Europe"; and "capacity-building for access to high-quality health services in South-East Europe". Two of the projects are already in the implementation phase and the other two are in the final stage of preparation.

67. To further support the developments in the region, to provide a forum for the seven South-East Europe countries for collaboration and to keep health high on the political agenda of the Stability Pact, the Council of Europe is continuing its support to the South-East Europe Health Network for 2002-2003 by launching the Multicountry Public Health Initiative "Health Development Action in SEE". At its fourth meeting in Hilleroed, Denmark, from 26 to 28 May 2002, the Health Network endorsed 12 founding principles for collaboration, the most important of which ones were the partnership approach, the full ownership of action of the South-East Europe countries, sustainability, complementarity, continuity, transparency and accountability.

IV. Observations

68. The longstanding cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe has continued to improve at all levels since the adoption of General Assembly resolution 56/43. An added value has been brought to the cooperation between the two organizations in the context of the impetus given to the relations between the United Nations and regional organizations.

69. Given a wide array of shared interests, the two organizations have made concerted efforts aimed at a balanced and equitable division of responsibilities, as well as taking cognizance of the areas in which one organization might have a comparative advantage and, hence, is better situated to take the lead role. This shared commonality of interest includes but is not limited to cooperation in such areas as conflict prevention, post-conflict peace-building and other confidence-building measures aimed at increasing tolerance and understanding between people belonging to different ethnic groups, especially those within countries in crisis. In the aftermath of the September 2001 terrorist attacks, there has been a keen focus on anti-terrorism efforts, while ensuring that human rights and humanitarian laws are respected at all times.

70. I believe the overall level of cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe is most satisfactory and remain optimistic about the prospects of an even deeper and more seamless cooperation in many areas in the future. In order to report more fully on concrete cooperation measures, I believe that I should report to the General Assembly on such cooperation every other year. I therefore recommend that my next report to the Assembly on this subject be submitted at its fifty-ninth session. Accordingly, the Assembly may wish to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Council of Europe".

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Item 88 (c) of the provisional agenda*
Sustainable development and international economic cooperation: culture and development

Culture and development

Note by the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the General Assembly the report by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of resolution 55/192 of 20 December 2000, entitled "Culture and development".

* A/57/150.
** The report was received from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 18 July 2002.

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Report by the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/192

Summary

The present report contains sections on the strategy followed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization with respect to culture and development and progress achieved in normative action in the service of culture as well as in the implementation of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity. The text of the Declaration is annexed to the report.

The principles concerning the impact of culture on the relevance, success and sustainability of development policies, which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been dealing with for more than two decades, were affirmed in 1995 by the World Commission on Culture and Development and endorsed in Stockholm, in 1998, by the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development. The commitment to respect creative diversity as the basis of development remains valid.

Today, however, the new challenges of globalization make it increasingly necessary to come up with a new definition of the relationship between culture, cultural diversity and development. In this new context, the concept of cultural diversity becomes a driving force, since conflicts concerning identity have also assumed a new global dimension. It is therefore important to point out that without lasting peace there can be no development, and that the only way to achieve lasting peace is by having a dialogue on diversity. The adoption, on 2 November 2001, by the General Conference of UNESCO at its thirty-first session, of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the main line of an action plan for its implementation are a major contribution to advancing discussion of the new relationship between culture and development.

By making use of the wealth of experience accumulated and building on it through the implementation of the action plan, this Declaration establishes a new platform for international cooperation.

I. Introduction

1. There is no question but that the international community recognizes the impact that cultural factors have on the relevance, success and sustainability of development policies. This is borne out by the fact that the United Nations General Assembly has adopted several resolutions on the subject. It is worth recalling, in this connection, some of the main stages, including the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIALCULT, Mexico City, 1982), the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997), the publication of the report of the World Commission on Culture and Development, entitled, "Our Creative Diversity" (1996), and the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998).

II. Strategy

2. The issue of culture and development and the challenges posed by cultural diversity call for the application of comprehensive, interdisciplinary and intersectoral strategies of action and skills. In this spirit, UNESCO's medium-term strategy for 2002-2007 includes two cross-cutting themes designed to play a central role in the Organization's activities: the eradication of poverty, especially extreme poverty; and the contribution of information and communication technologies to the development of education, science and culture and the construction of a knowledge society. The medium-term strategy also builds on the notion that culture can effectively contribute to poverty reduction. In this regard, the Organization's current programme and budget articulate a series of projects to systematize work on cultural indicators for development. One of these projects has been the publication of the *World Culture Report*, which has been highly successful in enhancing cooperation, in particular with the United Nations Development Programme and the Member States, in the area of cultural statistics, notably through the active involvement and support of national statistical institutes. Cooperative efforts in this area have also extended to the *Human Development Report*. The 2000 edition of the *World Culture Report* provided prospective analysis of the impact of globalization on the world's cultures, considering such key issues as conflict resolution, linguistic diversity, cultural flows and markets.

III. Progress with respect to standard-setting

3. In addition, with a view to strengthening national capacities regarding protection of cultural heritage and cultural property by defining regulatory instruments, UNESCO drew up the Convention on the Underwater Cultural Heritage, which was adopted in November 2001, at the thirty-first session of the General Conference. It is also working actively on a preliminary draft convention to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and is engaged in pilot activities to draw up, at the request of its member States, guiding principles for defining crimes against the common heritage of humanity. This latter effort has assumed considerable importance in light of the destruction visited on the heritage in a number of regions of the world. Lastly, the Organization is trying to encourage States to ratify the conventions which seek to counter illicit trafficking in cultural property (Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, UNESCO, 1970; the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, UNIDROIT, 1995; the Convention and first protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, 1954, and the second Protocol thereto, 1999; and the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, 1972).

IV. Diversity declaration

4. It should, however, be pointed out that the most important contribution UNESCO has made to advancing discussion of the relationship between culture and development has, without question, been the adoption on 2 November 2001, at the thirty-first session of the UNESCO General Conference, of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity and the main lines of an action plan for its implementation. For the first time, the international community has established an ethical frame of reference which defines cultural diversity as "the common heritage of humanity" and as such, calls for it to be respected and taken into account. This report highlights what member States expect of this regulatory text and the new

requests for technical assistance to which the latter has given rise. It also presents some significant projects that are being executed with a view to implementing the action plan.

5. The ministers of culture have played a key role in defining the priorities of the Declaration. At the first round table meeting on the theme "culture and creativity in a globalized world" (UNESCO, Paris, 2 November 1999), they affirmed their determination to uphold and promote cultural diversity in a globalizing world. At the second round table meeting (UNESCO, Paris, 11-12 December 2000) on the theme "2000-2010 cultural diversity: Challenges of the marketplace", emphasis was placed on the need for greater cooperation between countries of the north and developing countries so that the latter might revitalize their cultural industries, establish viable local markets and gain access to international distribution channels. It should be noted that the text of the Declaration was drafted in close cooperation with the Council of Europe, the Commission of the European Union, the World Trade Organization, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the International Network on Cultural Policy.

6. The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity came about because member States of UNESCO wanted to define, within the context of a globalizing world, a regulatory instrument that could be used when drafting national cultural policies, inter alia, to make sure that such policies were consistent with the rules of international law. The Declaration is based on a number of principles: inclusiveness, that is to say, respect for all cultural identities and participation of all in democratic States, and empowerment, that is to say, emergence of a climate conducive to the development of each individual's creative capacities. In order to meet these two requirements, it was necessary to start from a few basic principles which represent fixed points of reference and give meaning to any action designed to promote cultural diversity: the need to respect and to ensure respect for human rights and democracy; the principle of free circulation of ideas and of pluralism of the media; and the link between cultural diversity and development. The debate on the Declaration emphasized the importance of interaction between cultural diversity and human rights, in particular cultural rights, and the need to highlight the links between cultural diversity and sustainable development. Questions of identity, linguistic pluralism and creativity were raised as integral parts of this discussion.

V. Dialogue among civilizations

7. The Declaration was seen as necessary, following the events of 11 September 2001, in order to avert a dangerous interpretation of the conflicts as arising out of a "clash of civilizations". Post-September-2001 trauma and the effects of globalization have highlighted the need to give greater weight and visibility to the theme of dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions.

8. The protection of cultural diversity is closely linked to the larger framework of the dialogue among civilizations and cultures and its ability to achieve genuine mutual understanding, solidarity and cooperation. Such dialogue is designed to give a new and contemporary meaning to the notion of cultural heritage. Indeed, it may lay the foundation for a better understanding of the dynamic impact of the convergence and cross-fertilization of civilizations and cultures that has occurred throughout history until today. It encompasses values, beliefs, and philosophical and political concepts, as well as cultural and scientific accomplishments of different regions and peoples.

9. The major meetings and summits held within the context of the United Nations International Year of Dialogue among Civilizations (inter alia in New York, Vilnius, Islamabad, Tokyo and Kyoto, Tunis, Cairo and Caracas) have demonstrated the necessity for a joint and several commitment which will unite the whole of civil society, represented by the different non-governmental organizations or associations, and which will target women and young people and those regions, such as Asia or the Indian subcontinent, which have not managed to organize their own events, to highlight the interactions between cultures and spiritual traditions, the constituent elements of their civilizations.

VI. Follow-up to the Declaration in UNESCO activities

10. Since the Declaration was adopted, many States members of UNESCO have sought to draw up, with the assistance of UNESCO, national cultural policies that

could contribute to development by safeguarding and enhancing their cultural diversity. UNESCO has continued its efforts to identify measures that reconcile tourism development with preservation of cultural heritage in all its diversity. With this in mind, an international seminar was held on strategy to develop tourism at the Angkor Wat site (Cambodia, 2-3 January 2001); it resulted in the preparation of a master plan for cultural tourism. UNESCO also organized an international seminar on the theme "Cultural tourism: prospects for sustainable development and management of the World Heritage Sites", which was held in Damascus, from 9 to 11 September 2001. In the context of the cross-cutting theme concerning the elimination of poverty, the following projects relating to cultural tourism are currently being implemented: Development of cultural ecotourism in the mountain regions of certain developing countries; Strategy for the sustainable development of tourism in the Sahara; Sustainable management of World Heritage sites with a view to reducing poverty; Youth training and poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development of local tourism.

11. In addition, this year the World Heritage Centre has initiated an active tourism programme that considers the fundamental questions of cultural preservation and environmental protection, particularly in local communities. The Centre is now engaged in a project entitled, "Linking conservation on biodiversity and sustainable tourism at World Heritage sites". This project, financed by the United Nations Foundation, is a collaborative effort by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the RARE Center for Tropical Conservation. The six World Heritage sites are El Vizcaino (Mexico), Komodo (Indonesia), Rio Platano (Honduras), Sian Ka'an (Mexico), Tikal (Guatemala) and Ujung Kulon (Indonesia). The project focuses to a great extent on "on-the-ground" activities designed to involve the full range of stakeholders, including local communities, site managers, key government and non-governmental stakeholders and the tourism industry. The project aims to develop a replicable approach for World Heritage sites, preserving biodiversity and culture and using sustainable tourism to enhance the lives of the people living close to the sites. The lessons learned from this project, including its design considerations, will be made available to interested parties.

12. The World Heritage Centre also participated in the International Year of Ecotourism, including the pre-conference events and the World Ecotourism Summit in Quebec, Canada, from 19 May to 22 May 2002. At those events WHC representatives emphasized the importance of local communities in World Heritage site protection efforts. WHC is also working with the UNEP Tour Operator's Initiative for Sustainable Tourism Development, which encourages tour operators to incorporate sustainable environmental and cultural policies in their business practices. In general, the Centre is attempting to encourage tourism management at the site level through initiatives that change practices, with a view to increasing the sustainability of benefits. This means engaging site managers in such activities as public use planning based on the criteria used to designate World Heritage sites and encouraging them to coordinate tourism development by involving and partnering with the industry personnel concerned. For World Heritage, tourism is, or is becoming, an increasingly important management issue. Engaging the industry and its stakeholders and taking action at the different levels of the sustainable development process are the preferred strategies for managing tourism as a sustainable process to generate net local benefits.

VII. Goods and services/cultural industries

13. The protection of diversity also requires particular attention to the special status of cultural goods and services. Cultural enterprises and creative industries are privileged channels for creativity; they are a source of the social and economic dynamism that enriches human life. In addition, they are increasingly important sources of employment and wealth creation.

14. According to article 8 of the Declaration, cultural goods and services should not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods and cultural policies should be designed to create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services. The project Global Alliance for cultural diversity is based on this basic principle for it seeks to encourage the creation of cultural industries (such as books, publications, films, recorded music, crafts) at the local level and to encourage their participation, as full actors, in world markets. This initiative seeks to forge new partnerships between the

public sector, the private sector and civil society in order, inter alia, to help prevent piracy, which is recognized as a major obstacle to the sustainable development of these industries. If pursued together with other international organizations, particularly those of the United Nations system, it should give rise to a significant number of specific projects and renew traditional forms of international cooperation in this area.

VIII. Indigenous populations

15. Within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People and in line with the Plan of Action of the Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, the Organization considers it a matter of priority to encourage efforts to stabilize and revitalize the cultural identity of displaced, fragmented and stigmatized indigenous communities. It emphasizes in particular the importance of local and indigenous knowledge and its transmission to future generations. It also strives to sustain indigenous realities by reinforcing existing links and synergies between its various fields of competence, and seeks to encourage the adoption of national cultural policies that fully respect the cultural resources of indigenous people and acknowledge their cultural rights. To this end, UNESCO regards the mapping of indigenous communities' cultural resources as a crucial step towards achieving these aims. As such, it supports operational projects at work in the field in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and North America. Auditing an indigenous community's cultural resources hinges on the full and willing participation of the communities concerned, especially the elders who have been keeping alive their people's knowledge and values.

IX. Conclusions and recommendations

16. The General Assembly might wish to endorse the UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which the UNESCO General Conference adopted on 2 November 2001 at its thirty-first session, and, in light of the conclusions of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg, 26 August-4 September 2002), to recommend that all Member States:

(a) Recognize cultural diversity as "the common heritage of humanity", which is "as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature" (article 1 of the Declaration);

(b) Develop with due regard to the international obligations of each State cultural policies conducive to the promotion of the principles set forth in the Declaration and appended main lines of an action plan, inter alia, through operational support and/or appropriate regulations and, accordingly, take steps to:

- Give more weight to meetings and dialogue among civilizations, cultures and religions with a view to enhancing consideration of cultural rights in respect for human rights;
- Raise public awareness of the abundance of cultural diversity and, more particularly, encourage, through education and the media, awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity, inter alia, as regards languages, and enhance to that end, programme formulation and the training of teachers and communications professionals;
- ...
- Strengthen international cooperation and solidarity with a view to enabling all countries, particularly developing countries, to (i) gain access to new technologies; (ii) help them master information technologies with a view to encouraging the production, safeguarding and dissemination of diversified content; (iii) establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level, in the face of current imbalance in the flow and exchange of cultural goods at the global level;
- Promote policies pertaining to tangible and intangible cultural heritage, particularly taking into account resolution 56/8, adopted by the General Assembly on 21 November 2001, whereby 2002 was proclaimed United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage;
- Proclaim 21 May as World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development, echoing the World Day for Cultural Development during the World Decade for Cultural Development (1988-1997).

Appendix

UNESCO Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity

Adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its thirty-first session, in Paris, on 2 November 2001

The General Conference,

Committed to the full implementation of the human rights and fundamental freedoms proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other universally recognized legal instruments, such as the two International Covenants of 1966 relating respectively to civil and political rights and to economic, social and cultural rights,

Recalling that the Preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO affirms "that the wide diffusion of culture, and the education of humanity for justice and liberty and peace are indispensable to the dignity of man and constitute a sacred duty which all the nations must fulfil in a spirit of mutual assistance and concern",

Further recalling Article I of the Constitution, which assigns to UNESCO among other purposes that of recommending "such international agreements as may be necessary to promote the free flow of ideas by word and image",

Referring to the provisions relating to cultural diversity and the exercise of cultural rights in the international instruments enacted by UNESCO,[1]

Reaffirming that culture should be regarded as the set of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features of society or a social group, and that it encompasses, in addition to art and literature, lifestyles, ways of living together, value systems, traditions and beliefs,[2]

Noting that culture is at the heart of contemporary debates about identity, social cohesion, and the development of a knowledge-based economy,

Affirming that respect for the diversity of cultures, tolerance, dialogue and cooperation, in a climate of mutual trust and understanding are among the best guarantees of international peace and security,

Aspiring to greater solidarity on the basis of recognition of cultural diversity, of awareness of the unity of humankind, and of the development of intercultural exchanges,

Considering that the process of globalization, facilitated by the rapid development of new information and communication technologies, though representing a challenge for cultural diversity, creates the conditions for renewed dialogue among cultures and civilizations,

Aware of the specific mandate which has been entrusted to UNESCO, within the United Nations system, to ensure the preservation and promotion of the fruitful diversity of cultures,

Proclaims the following principles and adopts the present Declaration:

Identity, diversity and pluralism

Article 1
Cultural diversity: the common heritage of humanity

Culture takes diverse forms across time and space. This diversity is embodied in the uniqueness and

[1] Among which, in particular, the Florence Agreement of 1950 and its Nairobi Protocol of 1976, the Universal Copyright Convention of 1952, the Declaration of Principles on International Cultural Cooperation of 1966, the Convention on Measures to Forbid and Prevent Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Goods of 1970, the Convention for the Protection of World Cultural and Natural Heritage of 1972, the UNESCO Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice of 1978, the Recommendation on the Condition of Artists of 1980, and the Recommendation on Safeguarding Traditional and Popular Culture of 1989.

[2] This definition is in line with the conclusions of the World Conference on Cultural Policies (MONDIACULT, Mexico City, 1982), of the World Commission on Culture and Development (*Our Creative Diversity*, 1995), and of the Intergovernmental Conference on Cultural Policies for Development (Stockholm, 1998).

plurality of the identities of the groups and societies making up humankind. As a source of exchange, innovation and creativity, cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature. In this sense, it is the common heritage of humanity and should be recognized and affirmed for the benefit of present and future generations.

Article 2
From cultural diversity to cultural pluralism

In our increasingly diverse societies, it is essential to ensure harmonious interaction among people and groups with plural, varied and dynamic cultural identities as well as their willingness to live together. Policies for the inclusion and participation of all citizens are guarantees of social cohesion, the vitality of civil society and peace. Thus defined, cultural pluralism gives policy expression to the reality of cultural diversity. Indissociable from a democratic framework, cultural pluralism is conducive to cultural exchange and to the flourishing of creative capacities that sustain public life.

Article 3
Cultural diversity as a factor in development

Cultural diversity widens the range of options open to everyone; it is one of the roots of development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means to achieve a more satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence.

Cultural diversity and human rights

Article 4
Human rights as guarantees of cultural diversity

The defence of cultural diversity is an ethical imperative, inseparable from respect for human dignity. It implies a commitment to human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular the rights of persons belonging to minorities and those of indigenous peoples. No one may invoke cultural diversity to infringe upon human rights guaranteed by international law, nor to limit their scope.

Article 5
Cultural rights as an enabling environment for cultural diversity

Cultural rights are an integral part of hu rights, which are universal, indivisible interdependent. The flourishing of creative diver requires the full implementation of cultural right defined in Article 27 of the Universal Declaratio Human Rights and in Articles 13 and 15 of International Covenant on Economic, Social Cultural Rights. All persons should therefore be abl express themselves and to create and disseminate work in the language of their choice, and particular their mother tongue; all persons should be entitle quality education and training that fully respect cultural identity; and all persons should be abl participate in the cultural life of their choice conduct their own cultural practices, subject to res for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Article 6
Towards access for all to cultural diversity

While ensuring the free flow of ideas by w and image, care should be exercised that all cult can express themselves and make themselves kno Freedom of expression, media plural multilingualism, equal access to art and to scien and technological knowledge, including in digital f and the possibility for all cultures to have access to means of expression and dissemination are guarantees of cultural diversity.

Cultural diversity and creativity

Article 7
Cultural heritage as the wellspring of creativit

Creation draws on the roots of cultural tradi but flourishes in contact with other cultures. For reason, heritage in all its forms must be preser enhanced and handed on to future generations record of human experience and aspirations, so a foster creativity in all its diversity and to ins genuine dialogue among cultures.

Article 8
Cultural goods and services: commodities of a unique kind

In the face of present-day economic and technological change, opening up vast prospects for creation and innovation, particular attention must be paid to the diversity of the supply of creative work, to due recognition of the rights of authors and artists and to the specificity of cultural goods and services which, as vectors of identity, values and meaning, must not be treated as mere commodities or consumer goods.

Article 9
Cultural policies as catalysts of creativity

While ensuring the free circulation of ideas and works, cultural policies must create conditions conducive to the production and dissemination of diversified cultural goods and services through cultural industries that have the means to assert themselves at the local and global level. It is for each State, with due regard to its international obligations, to define its cultural policy and to implement it through the means it considers fit, whether by operational support or appropriate regulations.

Cultural diversity and international solidarity

Article 10
Strengthening capacities for creation and dissemination worldwide

In the face of current imbalances in flows and exchanges of cultural goods and services at the global level, it is necessary to reinforce international cooperation and solidarity aimed at enabling all countries, especially developing countries and countries in transition, to establish cultural industries that are viable and competitive at national and international level.

Article 11
Building partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and civil society

Market forces alone cannot guarantee the preservation and promotion of cultural diversity, which is the key to sustainable human development. From this perspective, the pre-eminence of public policy, in partnership with the private sector and civil society, must be reaffirmed.

Article 12
The role of UNESCO

UNESCO, by virtue of its mandate and functions, has the responsibility to:

(a) Promote the incorporation of the principles set out in the present Declaration into the development strategies drawn up within the various intergovernmental bodies;

(b) Serve as a reference point and a forum where States, international governmental and non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector may join together in elaborating concepts, objectives and policies in favour of cultural diversity;

(c) Pursue its activities in standard-setting, awareness-raising and capacity-building in the areas related to the present Declaration within its fields of competence;

(d) Facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan, the main lines of which are appended to the present Declaration.

Main lines of an action plan for the implementation of the UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity

The Member States commit themselves to taking appropriate steps to disseminate widely the "UNESCO Declaration on Cultural Diversity", in particular by cooperating with a view to achieving the following objectives:

1. Deepening the international debate on questions relating to cultural diversity, particularly in respect of its links with development and its impact on policy making, at both national and international level; taking forward notably consideration of the opportunity of an international legal instrument on cultural diversity.

2. Advancing in the definition of principles, standards and practices, on both the national and the international levels, as well as of awareness-raising modalities and patterns of cooperation, that are most conducive to the safeguarding and promotion of cultural diversity.

3. Fostering the exchange of knowledge and best practices in regard to cultural pluralism with a view to facilitating, in diversified societies, the inclusion and participation of persons and groups from varied cultural backgrounds.

4. Making further headway in understanding and clarifying the content of cultural rights as an integral part of human rights.

5. Safeguarding the linguistic heritage of humanity and giving support to expression, creation and dissemination in the greatest possible number of languages.

6. Encouraging linguistic diversity — while respecting the mother tongue — at all levels of education, wherever possible, and fostering the learning of several languages from the youngest age.

7. Promoting through education an awareness of the positive value of cultural diversity and improving to this end both curriculum design and teacher education.

8. Incorporating, where appropriate, traditional pedagogies into the education process with a view to preserving and making full use of culturally appropriate methods of communication and transmission of knowledge.

9. Encouraging "digital literacy" and ensuring greater mastery of the new information and communication technologies, which should be seen both as educational discipline and as pedagogical tools capable of enhancing the effectiveness of educational services.

10. Promoting linguistic diversity in cyberspace and encouraging universal access through the global network to all information in the public domain.

11. Countering the digital divide, in close cooperation in relevant United Nations system organizations, by fostering access by the developing countries to the new technologies, by helping them to master information technologies and by facilitating the digital dissemination of endogenous cultural products and access by those countries to the educational, cultural and scientific digital resources available worldwide.

12. Encouraging the production, safeguarding and dissemination of diversified contents in the media and global information networks and, to that end, promoting the role of public radio and television services in the development of audio-visual productions of good quality, in particular by fostering the establishment of cooperative mechanisms to facilitate their distribution.

13. Formulating policies and strategies for the preservation and enhancement of the cultural and natural heritage, notably the oral and intangible cultural heritage, and combating illicit traffic in cultural goods and services.

14. Respecting and protecting traditional knowledge, in particular that of indigenous peoples; recognizing the contribution of traditional knowledge, particularly with regard to environmental protection and the management of natural resources, and fostering synergies between modern science and local knowledge.

15. Fostering the mobility of creators, artists, researchers, scientists and intellectuals and the development of international research programmes and partnerships, while striving to preserve and enhance the creative capacity of developing countries and countries in transition.

16. Ensuring protection of copyright and related rights in the interest of the development of contemporary creativity and fair remuneration for creative work, while at the same time upholding a public right of access to culture, in accordance with Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

17. Assisting in the emergence or consolidation of cultural industries in the developing countries and countries in transition and, to this end, cooperating in the development of the necessary infrastructures and skills, fostering the emergence of viable local markets, and facilitating access for the cultural products of those countries to the global market and international distribution networks.

18. Developing cultural policies, including operational support arrangements and/or appropriate regulatory frameworks, designed to promote the principles enshrined in this Declaration, in accordance with the international obligations incumbent upon each State.

19. Involving civil society closely in framing of public policies aimed at safeguarding and promoting cultural diversity.

20. Recognizing and encouraging the contribution that the private sector can make to enhancing cultural diversity and facilitating to that end the establishment of forums for dialogue between the public sector and the private sector.

The Member States recommend that the Director-General take the objectives set forth in this Action Plan into account in the implementation of UNESCO's programmes and communicate the latter to institutions of the United Nations system and to other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned with a view to enhancing the synergy of actions in favour of cultural diversity.